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New Delhi could provide humanitarian assistance

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Neeraj to lead India's athletics team at Paris

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Sea of fans

Victory lap: The Marine Drive in Mumbai is filled with fans waiting to greet the Indian cricket team ahead of its victory parade after winning the T20 World Cup in Barbados. The team arrived in India on Thursday morning. EMMANUAL YOIGINI (FULL COVERAGE ON PAGE 21)

Six held for U.P. stampede; no police action against godman

Preacher not named in FIR; police announce reward of ₹1 lakh for information on main accused; teams formed to search for persons who were part of organising committee of prayer meeting

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh Police arrested six persons, including two women, on Thursday in connection with the stampede at a religious gathering in Hathras that left 121 people dead.

The arrested persons were part of the committee that organised the *satsang* of preacher Narayan Sakar Hari alias Bhole Baba, who was not named in the first information report (FIR).

The police also announced a reward of ₹1 lakh for information on Devprakash Madhukar, the main accused of the incident. He was a follower of Bhole Baba and collected funds for his events, the police said.

Speaking about the arrests, Shalabh Mathur, Inspector-General of Police, Aligarh Range said police teams have been formed to search for persons who were part of the organising committee of the *satsang*, across U.P. and outside.

Devastating tragedy: A forensic expert collecting evidence from the stampede site in Hathras on Wednesday. R.V. MOORTHY

"Our teams arrested six persons identified as Rahbari Singh Yadav, Bhupendar Singh Yadav, Megh Singh, Manju Yadav, Mukesh Kumar, and Manju Devi, who all were volunteers and fled from the spot after the stampede," Mr. Mathur said. The official said the persons who were arrested had handled all responsibilities for the religious event, including crowd management and collection of funds.

"Their job was to manage everything related to *satsang*, including power supply, tents, parking arrangements, etc. All was being done by these volunteers. The arrested persons told us that the followers of Bhole Baba feel blessed to collect his *charan raj* [soil under his feet]. On the day of the stampede, volunteers could not manage the people who pushed their way to collect the soil, leading to the stampede," Mr. Mathur said.

He further said that police and administrative officials reached the stampede site soon after getting information and all assistance was provided. He said that apart from the ₹1 lakh reward, a non-bailable warrant will be issued against Mr. Madhukar.

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Labour Party projected to oust Sunak govt. in U.K. polls

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Voters leave a polling station in Belfast on Thursday. AFP

Millions went to the polls in the U.K. on Thursday, to vote for 650 MPs in the House of Commons, with the Labour Party projected to win a sizeable, if not historically large majority of more than 400 seats, according to several poll projections.

When final results are announced Friday morning, the accuracy of the polls and the fate of Rishi Sunak's government will be known. The 44-year-old British Prime Minister, the first person of Indian descent to hold the position, heads the fifth in a series of Conservative governments that have spanned 14 years. During this period, Britons voted by a small margin to exit the European Union and went through the COVID-19 pandemic with attendant political scandals, including then Prime Minister Boris Johnson breaking lockdown rules.

The Conservative years also saw the U.K. economy taking a battering in the years after Brexit, partly because of it, but also due to global inflationary pressures following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and former Prime Minister Liz Truss's economic policies, enacted during her record short term of 50 days.

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'LIMIT LABOUR'S POWER'
» PAGE 20

Soren sworn in as Jharkhand CM

Amit Bhelari
RANCHI

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Hemant Soren was sworn in as Jharkhand Chief Minister for the third time on Thursday.

Mr. Soren, who is currently out on bail in a money laundering case, was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi.

"Despite the political ups and downs, Champai Soren *ji* was running the government because I was in jail. I don't want to discuss why I was in jail because the court's order is already in the public domain," the new CM said after taking the oath.

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NEARBY

Transport Dept. begins crackdown on bike taxis

BENGALURU
After auto and cab drivers in Bengaluru staged a protest, the Transport Department on Thursday mandated RTOs to create special investigation teams to tackle unauthorised bike taxis, including electric bike taxis. » PAGE 2

'MUDA must pay ₹62 cr. for land encroachment'

BENGALURU
As the BJP continued to attack the Congress over alleged land scam in MUDA, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said a compensation of ₹62 crore for having "encroached" upon his family's land would have to be paid by MUDA. » PAGE 10

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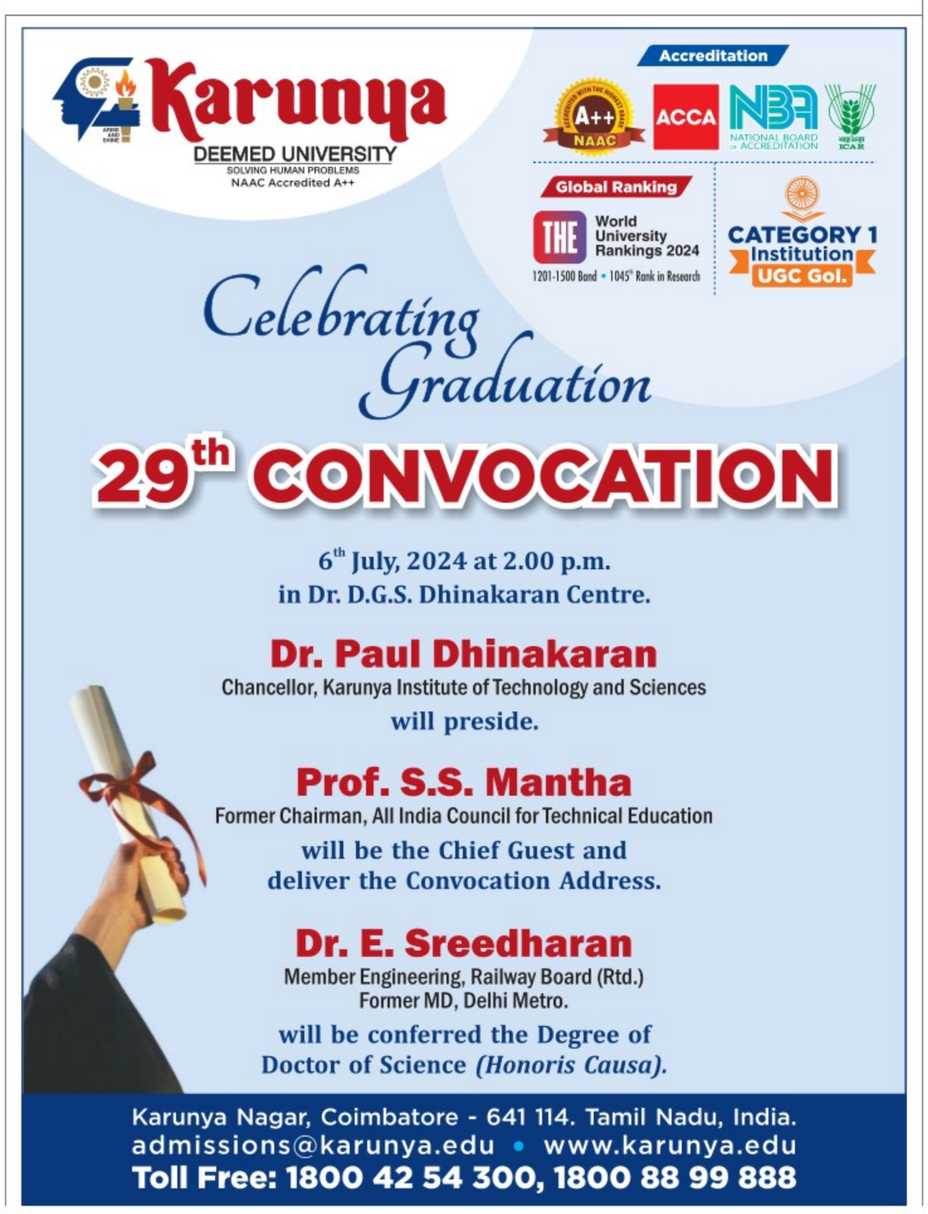
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THE MLABA-RI BANGER dances to her own beat

Nonkululeko Mlaba has come a long way from being a nervous 19-year-old finding her feet in international cricket, overcoming the shadows of socio-economic constraints to being a bright spin prospect for South Africa

GETTY IMAGES

Lavanya Lakshmi Narayanan

Nonkululeko Mlaba's life looked very different five years ago. She was still coming through the ranks of age-group and club cricket, showing sparks of brilliance that could be fanned for the national team someday.

Her rise from the grassroot level to the National Academy and eventually the South African national women's cricket team happened in the blink of an eye. From the scenic locales of Durban where she sharpened much of her toolkit as a cricketer, she suddenly found herself on the plane to India, all set for her first rodeo in international cricket.

September 24, 2019. Surat. Plenty of debutants in the fray. The Lalbhai Contractor Stadium was hosting its first ever international match. A 15-year-old Shafali Verma had been handed her maiden T20I cap, as was a 19-year-old Mlaba.

"I knew how Indian people love cricket. Making my debut here in India, seeing a lot of people attending the game almost felt like a movie or a dream. I was so nervous. It was so loud that I couldn't even hear my own teammates talking to me," the left-arm spinner reminisces, while in the middle of yet another assignment in the subcontinent.

Noises. A phenomenon she would have to contend with her whole life, for better or for worse.

That initiation was a hard one. She'd have to wait for five more months to finally manage her first international wicket, in a T20 World Cup no less, when she dismissed Thailand's Sornnarin Tippoch in a game the Proteas won by a whopping 113 runs.

Luck by chance

Mlaba hails from KwaMashu, a South African township (areas that were underdeveloped and racially segregated in the lead-up to and during the apartheid era in the country). She then moved to Ntuzuma to stay with her uncle, aunt and cousins at the age of 13.

As a teenager, Mlaba's first passion was dancing, particularly the traditional dancing style of the region called Pantsula - a style that emerged from the townships as a form of commentary during the ages of social separation. However, in Ntuzuma, she found no one to really pursue this passion with. Dancing's void allowed cricket to enter the room.

Mlaba took up the sport as a way to kill time. She followed her brother and sisters to the local ground to watch them train. Eventually, she began going every day.

Eventually, she found herself in Lindelani Cricket Club and she has not turned back since.

"I didn't go to a big school where I'd get to see people of other races. I went to school in the township. For me, as a township girl, to play cricket....starting out, cricket was more for white people. For me to get to where I am motivated a lot of people and helped them see that anything is possible," Mlaba says. Her teammate Nondumiso Shangase has a similar story.

Spinning away to success

Mlaba started out as a pacer, a story countless spinners will relate to world over. In her case, it wasn't a lack of purchase or a certain paucity of ability that pushed her to the world of spin. It was a coach's call at club level.

"In my club, we only had one spinner and we also had one left-arm pacer. My coach decided to move me to spin so there would be a right-left spin combination. It wasn't too hard. I had to fine-tune some technique but I naturally got the turn."

But the pacer in you never dies. Speed still makes its way into her game every now and again.

"I'm happy with spin," she quips when asked if she misses life as a seam bowler. "When I asked one of my teammates who bowls pace, they're always complaining. You have to run in. I feel like it's a lot of work. Spin is also hard, it's technically difficult. But now and then, I have this arm ball. It's very fast because I used to bowl pace. I like using it from time to time and it's faster than some of the pace bowlers in the squad."

"Sometimes, I feel that if I am bowling slower, if I don't bowl it in the right spots, I get hit everywhere. So then I tend to stick to what I know. It's not exactly quicker, but it's flatter."

Mlaba modelled her game on Imran Tahir starting out, a player and person she grew to be quite fond of as a mentor. Eventually, Keshav Maharaj also became one of her idols and is someone she turns to for advice even today.

Taking the bull by its horns

Life has never been easy for Mlaba. She is a player with a natural ability to turn the ball who is now trying to make space in a world of flat T20 tracks. India, known for its spin-friendly tracks, would have been an opportunity leaving Mlaba licking her lips, as South African skipper Laura Wolvaardt put it ahead of their multi-format tour of the nation this year. But through the course of the ODIs in Bengaluru and the one-off Test in Chennai, the surfaces left Mlaba questioning her own abilities.

"(Maharaj) told me Chennai is spin-friendly. I was very excited. But as soon as I started bowling, I was like, 'No man, what's going on? Am I not bowling the right lengths?' Everything was off for me. If I bowled a bit into the spot, it was turning a lot and went wide. If I tried to get to the stump line, it wasn't doing what I wanted either. It was very difficult."

> I think she wants to be number one, she works really hard. I love the fire that's burning inside of her
>
> **CHLOE TRYON**
> South African allrounder

An opponent as strong as India, at home to boot, only made things twice as challenging, but Mlaba is always up for a fight.

"I really like India (conditions and the team) because they really come hard at me. They really want to hit me hard. I just love that coz I just go like 'Do it again.' If they hit me for six, I'm just like, 'Do it again.'I love the challenge that they give me. It's nice for me as a bowler. I love T20 and to play against India, I know they come down hard on the bowlers especially the spinners. If you toss it up a bit, it's gone. I feel like they make me grow a lot in my bowling."

Ahead of what promises to be a fiercely contested T20I series against India, Mlaba is looking forward to her battles with Smriti Mandhana, whom she has dismissed a number of times in the past, including twice already in the current tour.

"Even though the ball is turning into the left handers, I somehow get wickets. I don't know how. I love bowling to left-handers even though they challenge me a lot. I love challenges. I've gotten Mandhana a lot. Back home, during the tri-series, she was struggling. I know she's going to come hard at me and might have done a lot of research to do that. I am waiting for that challenge."

Mlaba enjoys encounters against the best in the world. Another instance is facing Suzie Bates in the T20 World Cup at home last year. Mlaba was crucial to South Africa's 65-run where she took three wickets including getting Bates for a two-ball duck. Her dancing celebration went viral from that game and is understandably a core memory for the spinner in her still flourishing international career.

"I was very angry with how I started in the first game against Sri Lanka. I kept thinking this is not my standard. After that, to play the second game at Paarl on a spin-friendly turf, I kept thinking, I had to get this right now. I am in my country, I am used to these conditions, I need to come up with something good.

"My friend and teammate Masabata Klaas came to me that morning and said, 'If you don't get this right, I am going to punch you in the face.' Obviously, she was joking but it really pumped me up.

Noise made an appearance again, this time through the comments of critics on her social media accounts, something she quite guiltily admits she needs to stop.

"Another thing that really made me perform that way was the comments online. I read a lot of comments online, I maybe shouldn't be doing that as a professional. The more I read them, the more I grow as a person, because it just pisses me off.

"Most of the time, I just laugh at some of the comments I get. Even if something nasty is said about me. When I am playing, I always remember some of the negative comments. Maybe the person wasn't trying to be mean, maybe they were trying to help me in some way, but I need to stop reading these comments," she shrugs.

Acing the last mile

South Africa made it to the final of that edition, pitted against Meg Lanning's Australia in the final. In a maiden summit clash appearance against one of the most dominant sides in the game's history, the Proteas folded. A similar story unfolded a little over a year later with the men against an Indian side in the Men's T20 showpiece in Barbados.

Mlaba believes the wounds have closed over and hopes that learning is the way to heal.

"It was a bit overwhelming for us. We didn't know how to do certain things in some situations. I think we should have been calmer. We were just rushing, we were trying to do so many things. We should have tried to take every ball one at a time."

That final was not without its personal positives. For Mlaba, it gave her community an opportunity to step up for one of their own.

"Funny part is, in my township, a lot of people know I play cricket. Mostly, it's the older people who watch cricket. But when we made the final, I don't know what happened. The people in my township put up a screen and were watching. They sent me the videos and it was so lovely. They supported us so much. I felt so good and I feel that's inspired so many youngsters and teenagers.

In a few months' time, another World Cup will see the Proteas head to Bangladesh for a chance to right the wrongs of 2023. It's been a harder journey with the side in major transition after key retirements since the last edition. Mlaba is not the cherubic youngster waiting to make a mark. She's the hardened professional now expected to lead. She knows pressure and the nerves are okay. She's always gotten past them and she's not quite done dancing to her own beat just yet.

THE GIST

- Mlaba started out as a pace bowler, but switched to spin after her coach at the club level required a spinner to plug gaps in the side's bowling attack
- In 48 T20Is, the left-arm spinner has 36 wickets, of which India accounts for six wickets (her best against a nation)
- Mlaba enjoys dancing and her moves often make an appearances even on the field
- She enjoys bowling to Laura Wolvaardt in the nets, fondly remembering calling her captain 'loser' if she manages to beat her. Wolvaardt, Mlaba admits, is happy to answer her in kind
- Mlaba is a player whose life has transformed since taking up cricket. She has revealed that her career has helped her fix her family home and even afford better housing that's close to cricket facilities
- She pursues several interests outside cricket, one of which is an interest in studying sports management to widen her avenues after her time as an active cricketer

Transport Dept. initiates crackdown on bike taxis

However, the directive lacks clarity on the enforcement measures, given that the High Court has directed action against those hindering bike taxi services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After autorickshaw and cab drivers in Bengaluru staged a protest, the Karnataka Transport Department on Thursday (July 4) mandated Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) to create special investigation teams to tackle unauthorised bike taxis, including electric bike taxis.

The demonstrators were pushing for action against bike taxis and the establishment of a uniform cab fare across the city.

C. Mallikarjuna, the Additional Commissioner for Transport (Enforcement-South), notified on Thursday, directing all RTOs to begin daily inspections from Friday and report on the actions taken against bike taxis.

"The Electric Bike Taxi Scheme 2021 has been withdrawn, and it has also decided to clamp down on bike taxis. From July 5 onwards, special teams have been established in all 10 RTOs in Bengaluru to address unauthorized bike taxis, including electric ones, until further notice," the order said.

High Court order

However, the Transport Department's directive lacks clarity on the enforcement measures, given that the High Court has already directed action against those hindering bike taxi services. In April 2024, the Karnataka High Court instructed the state government to safeguard bike taxi operators by implementing stringent actions against anyone unlawfully obstructing bike taxi riders in their operations.

Meanwhile, in a statement, Adi Narayana, President of the Bike Taxi Welfare Association, Karnataka, said, "We want to clarify that the order talks about EV bike taxis. Secondly, we want to clarify that bike taxi operations are protected by the orders of the High Court of Karnataka. All unions were made a party to the said case, and the High Court has clearly directed the State government to take action against any person who tries to harass or threaten Uber / Rapido/ any bike taxi drivers."

"We strongly urge that if any such incidents are reported against our bike taxi union members and bike taxi brothers, we will file contempt cases against such violating individuals in a personal capacity," he added.

Cab and taxi drivers protest over unmet demands

Cab drivers and auto drivers staging a demonstration in front of the Transport Department office at Shantinagar in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cab and taxi drivers on Thursday gathered in front of the Transport Department office at Shantinagar here to protest against the government's "failure" to address their demands submitted last year. The protest was organised by the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations.

The protesters voiced their grievances about the high road tax and the hefty commissions taken by cab aggregator apps.

Autorickshaw drivers and owners' unions also joined the protest, demanding a ban on illegal bike taxis operating across the city and calling for a restriction on aggregators charging more than 5% commission of the total fare.

"We had presented a list of 30 demands to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy last year. However, the government has overlooked our needs. Despite engaging in numerous discussions with the government, nothing has been resolved. To address our issues without causing public inconvenience, the government should arrange a public meeting and resolve our issues soon," said Natraj Sharma, president of the federation.

Mahesh K., a cab driver who was among the protesters, said, "We request the government's immediate intervention to ensure fair treatment and sustainable working conditions for the transport community. The Shakti scheme has already impacted us, and on top of that, the huge commissions charged by cab aggregators are the biggest issues that need to be resolved."

PM will inaugurate Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway before December: Gadkari

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would inaugurate the Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway before December.

Addressing the valedictory session of the Karnataka BJP's State executive in Bengaluru, Mr. Gadkari said it would be possible to reach Bengaluru from Chennai within two hours on this highway.

A file photo of the Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway near Hoskote.

Four-lane highway

The four-lane brownfield Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway, currently under construction, aims to reduce travel time between the two cities. Spanning approximately 258 km, the expressway will traverse seven districts: three in Karnataka (Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, and Kolar), Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh, and three in Tamil Nadu (Vellore, Kanchipuram, and Tiruvallur).

Referring to the traffic problem in Bengaluru, Mr. Gadkari said he would try to complete the Satellite Township Ring Road (STRR) within December. "I will try to complete the ₹17,000-crore ring road by December," he said.

In June 2022, Mr. Modi laid the foundation stone for the much-delayed STRR project which aims to decongest the city and is being implemented by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

Stating that the Karnataka Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister had met him recently in Delhi regarding several road projects, he remarked: "I told them that I can immediately give them ₹2 lakh crore. But you get the land acquisition done and ensure that environmental clearances are obtained. Because, I cannot build roads in air."

He said he does not keep any letters by the State government or elected representatives pending. "But for a few, I have responded to all the letters," he noted.

BACL scouts for design consultancy for airport city streetscape, elevated walkway

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Airport City Limited (BACL) has issued a request for proposal (RFP) to procure the services of a design consultancy for Bengaluru Airport City streetscape and elevated walkway.

The BACL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) which operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

"The BACL intends to procure services 'Principal Design Consultancy for Bengaluru Airport City streetscape and elevated walkway' ('Services') from a suitably qualified and experienced company on the terms and conditions contained in this RFP. The quotes/proposals for the services shall be submitted in accordance with the financial, technical and other specifications/scope work specified in the RFP," states the objective of the RFP.

Bengaluru Airport City Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bangalore International Airport Ltd. which operates the Kempegowda International Airport. FILE PHOTO

The BACL has been founded to develop the airport city at the KIA which will consist of business parks, R&D hubs, global capability centres, education and health district, hospitality, central park, a multipurpose concert arena etc. In May, the BACL unveiled investment plans for a two million square feet business park and 775 keys hotel.

Temporary ATC

In addition, the BIAL has also issued an RFP to design and build a temporary air traffic control (ATC) tower at the KIA. A BIAL spokesperson said a tender has been floated for a temporary ATC. "The current ATC has been around for 16 to 17 years and it will be refurbished," the spokesperson said.

The ATC at the KIA became operational on May 24, 2008, and is managed by the Airports Authority of India. The KIA is the third busiest airport in the country having handled a total of 37.53 million passengers during the FY 2023-2024.

Exporting perishables

The BIAL said that in FY 2023-24, the KIA continued to serve as the number one airport in India for exporting perishables for the fourth consecutive year.

During this fiscal year, the airport recorded a total perishable cargo tonnage of 63,188 tonnes, marking an impressive 18% growth compared to the previous fiscal year, handling 28% of the country's total perishable cargo. "The airport also processed 44% of the south India's total perishable cargo and 28% of the national share for FY 2023-24," the BIAL said.

Committee to probe charges against BNU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Governor and Chancellor of Bengaluru North University (BNU), Kolar, has appointed a one-man inquiry committee of retired High Court judge Ashok B. Hinchigeri to investigate charges against the university.

Mr. Gehlot, exercising the powers conferred under Section 8(1) of the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000, ordered the inquiry in the wake of many allegations, including corruption and favouring a private college, against the university. He has instructed the committee to submit the report along with its recommendations within three months.

"Numerous complaints have been received by the Karnataka Governor's Secretariat against officers of Bengaluru North University and Krupanidhi College of Management, affiliated to the university, from students, staff, and others over issues relating to infrastructure, corruption, and mismanagement. Therefore, the Governor felt it is necessary to inquire into the facts and look into the complaints and alleged mismanagement in the administration of the university and the said college and ordered for an inquiry," said a press release.

State ties up with Meta for online safety programmes in colleges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Government of Karnataka and Meta have embarked on a project to empower 1 lakh teachers and 10 lakh students with digital safety knowledge and augmented reality/virtual reality (AR-VR) skills by 2025.

The Digital Nagarik and AR-VR Skills Programme was launched by the Minister for IT and Biotechnology Priyank Kharge in Bengaluru on Thursday in collaboration with the Departments of School Education, Higher Education, and Technical Education.

The Government of Karnataka signed a Letter of Intent in November 2023 and entered into a two-year partnership with Meta to promote digital education and student online user safety.

Karnataka is the first State in India to collaborate with Meta on this initiative. FILE PHOTO

"Karnataka is the first State in India to collaborate with Meta on this initiative. Under this online safety initiative, 10 lakh students between the ages of 18 and 24 from different schools

More than 1 lakh teachers and 10 lakh students to be trained in digital safety, AR, VR skills

and PU colleges across the State will receive digital awareness training. Meta will also train and deploy master trainers across these schools and PU colleges and universities who in turn will train the students in digital safety knowledge and AR-VR skills," said a release.

100 colleges, varsities

It is the first time that this initiative will also cover 100 colleges and universities from across the State, where students themselves will be the master trainers and promote peer learning through it. The training will revolve around digital safety and awareness.

In the first phase of implementation, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Belgavi, and Dakshin Kannada will be covered, and the remaining districts will be covered in the next phase.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Kharge said, "Today, we embark on this crucial journey towards a Cyber-Safe Karnataka. The Digital Nagrik Campaign is aimed at fortifying the minds of our young with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the complexities of the cyber world."

SPOTLIGHT
» PAGE 8

Undertrial caught smuggling mobile phones into prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alert officials of the Bengaluru Central Prison have caught a 25-year-old undertrial who was allegedly trying to smuggle two mobile phones concealed in his rectum.

This incident not only exposed the use of mobile phones in the high-security prison, but also lapses on the part of the police escort. The use of mobile phones continues unabated despite the prison having state-of-the-art jammers, which are even causing inconvenience to residents living in and around.

The accused, Raghuveer, was taken to a court for a hearing on Tuesday. After the hearing, he was brought back and handed over to prison officials.

Stomach ache

During the routine formalities, Raghuveer complained of stomach ache to the inspection team, headed by probationary sub-inspector Divyashri G.

Suspecting something fishy, the officials checked him with a hand-held metal detector, which beeped when brought near the body cavity. The matter was reported to higher officials. Raghuveer was subjected to medical examination. Two mobile phones, which were wrapped in a tape, were recovered from his anus.

Superintendent Central Prison Mallikarjun B. filed a complaint with the jurisdictional Parappana Agrahara police before initiating a probe to ascertain how Raghuveer managed to get hold of the mobile phones while he was in custody. The police suspect Raghuveer of smuggling the mobile phones at the behest of someone in the prison.

The police have registered an FIR charging Raghuveer under Section 42 of The Karnataka Prisons (Amendment) (penalty for introduction or removal of prohibited articles into or from prison and communication with prisoners), and Section 323 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (dishonest or fraudulent removal or concealment of property).

BBMP contractors threaten strike if pending bills are not cleared by July 8

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) contractors have threatened to suspend civic works in the city from July 8 if their demands are not met.

The contractors have been demanding that the civic body clear their pending bills, due since August 2022, which essentially means bills for the last 24 months are pending. The pending bills in the civic body as of Thursday amount to over ₹1,700 crore, sources said.

Pre-August 2022

Though the BBMP has been clearing pending bills and payments were made even in June, those were bills of the works completed before August 2022.

"We have now set a deadline of July 8 for the civic body to fulfil our demands, mainly clearing pending bills and reducing the number of tables a file has to get a clearance from. If our demands are not met, we have decided to go on a strike and stop all civic works across the city," said K.T. Manjunath, president of the BBMP Contractors' Association.

He said the association would also speak to contractors who have bagged tenders for white-topping of roads and ask them to not start the work. The civic body recently issued work orders for white-topping 75 stretches of roads totalling a length of 150 km.

At a recent consultation meeting with civic officials, the association claimed that corruption had increased in the civic body and sought a "reduction" in the number of tables a file had to be cleared at, to cut down on corruption. Special Commissioner (Finance) Shivananda H. Kalakeri then promised to streamline the process for bill clearance. However, there has been no progress on the front, contractors allege.

Contractors now demand that randomisation and Technical Vigilance Cell under the Commissioner route should not be applied to works that are two years old, as they claim it "increases corruption". However, civic officials have maintained this was a time-tested quality-control mechanism which also ensured transparency.

The pending bills in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike as of Thursday amount to over ₹1,700 crore, according to sources.

Radiation biodosimetry: the ABCs of responding to a radiological event

The time required to report the dose is critical, treatments for radiation are more effective the earlier they are administered. It would therefore be beneficial for the assay to produce a same-day result. The team at Columbia is working to reduce assay time, on an HTS platform, to under 4 hours

Guy Garty
Venkatachalam P

After a large-scale radiological event, such as an Improvised Nuclear Device or reactor accident, it is important to identify those individuals who have received a significant dose of radiation and would benefit from one of the drugs that have been recently approved to treat radiation sickness. These drugs are most effective when administered within a few days of exposure. It is also critical to reassure those individuals who have not received a significant dose but are extremely concerned, preventing them from overwhelming hospitals. Thus, there will be a pressing need to assess, within a few days, the radiation doses received by tens or hundreds of thousands of individuals.

What is biodosimetry?

Biodosimetry allows one to determine the amount of radiation to which an individual was exposed based on changes in blood, urine, or hair. It would be particularly useful in a radiological event where the exposed individuals do not carry any personal radiation monitoring devices.

The gold standard biodosimetry assay is measurement of chromosome aberrations, in white blood cells. When irradiated, DNA in the blood cells gets broken and is repaired within a few hours. In some cases, there is an incorrect repair, joining fragments from different chromosomes, forming a 'DicentricChromosome (DC)' - a chromosome with two centromeres. Because a DC can only be formed by radiation, measuring these chromosomes is a specific and sensitive indicator of past radiation exposure. In order to measure DC, lymphocyte from the exposed individuals is cultured to begin division and then the chromosomes are spread on a slide and stained. The DC are then counted either while looking down a microscope directly or in images captured at high magnification. Due to the need for culturing the cells followed by the analysis of few hundred metaphases, the overall time taken to produce a result is about 2-3 days. Over the past decades, the Dicentric Chromosome Assay (DCA) has been successfully employed in many radiation accidents, where the number of exposed people is small. However, as implemented in a clinical cytogenetic lab, the DCA is too labour intensive to be practically applied in a larger event, with a throughput of a few tens of samples per day.

A second, slightly simpler, assay is the Cytokinesis Block Micronucleus Assay (CBMN), where the white blood cells are made to divide, but arrested before division is complete. This forms a cell with two nuclei. Following radiation exposure some DNA will be ejected during division forming a "micronucleus". This assay is slightly simpler to perform and score but overall time to answer is longer (-3 days), as it requires longer culturing of the cells.

Measurement on the phosphorylated form of specific histone protein, an inherent component of chromosomes known as the "gamma-H2AX' assay, has the potential to segregate the exposed from that of unexposed and those exposed to low dose versus high dose without culturing cells, within 6-8 hours of time. This assay needs to be performed within 24 hours owing to the kinetics of histone phosphorylation.

Dr. Guy Garty with Medical Students at the INDO-USA-Sparc Workshop at the Sri Ramachandra,Institute of Higher Education and Research in Porur. VELANKANNI RAJ B

Increasing throughput

The traditional approach to increasing the throughput of biodosimetry assays is to implement a lab network, where samples are shared between a dozen or more labs around the world, however this does not provide a sufficient increase in throughput to cope with a large radiological event.

Over the last 20 years the Center for Radiological Research at Columbia University has developed automatable versions of the major biodosimetry assays, performed in 96-well plates. The use of 96-well plates allows a significant increase in throughput as 96 samples are processed simultaneously.

The first iteration of the Rapid Automated Biodosimetry Tool (RABiT) used custom robotics to perform the CBMN assay with a target throughput of 6000 samples per day per machine. More recently we have implemented both the CBMN and DCA assays on several commercial High Throughput Screening (HTS) platforms, dubbed "RABiT-II". HTS systems use robotics, liquid handling devices and automated microscopes to quickly conduct millions of chemicals, genetic, or pharmacological tests. In the pharmaceutical industry, these systems leverage automation to quickly assay the biochemical activity of many drug-like compounds. In academia, the same systems are increasingly used to arrive at fundamental biological insights rather than drug candidates.

The broad deployment of HTS platforms would allow significantly increased throughput for performing biodosimetry, with each machine capable, in principle, of analyzing thousands of samples per day. A second major advantage is reliability. A commercial system with such diverse deployment capabilities undergoes rigorous quality control during development, manufacture and most importantly maintenance. Indeed, the quality of HTS data is very high and often better controlled than data generated by lower-throughput biological tests. Because these systems are in continuous operation, they also have a broad base of trained users and maintenance personnel ensuring successful operation during a crisis. This would obviously not be the case with a custom robotic system which would likely be in storage for years or decades before use.

> Biodosimetry allows one to determine the amount of radiation to which an individual was exposed based on changes in blood, urine, or hair. It would be useful in a radiological event where the exposed individuals do not carry any radiation monitoring devices

Reducing time to answer

Obviously, the time required to report the dose is critical, many of the treatments for radiation sickness are more effective the earlier they are administered. It would therefore be very beneficial for the assay to produce a same-day result. As they currently exist the DCA and CBMN assays cannot do this, as cells need to be cultured for 2-3 days. The DCA can be significantly accelerated by treating the cells with specific Kinases that cause the chromosomes to condense without the need for culturing. This Premature Chromosome Condensation (PCC) assay can potentially provide a same day dose estimate. The team at Columbia University is currently working to reduce assay time, when implemented on an HTS platform, to under 4h.

Logistics

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests establishing Community Reception Center (CRC) locations as quickly as possible in the aftermath of a large-scale radiological or nuclear incident, after which the public will be provided with information about CRC locations and will be provided with instructions regarding who should report to which CRC. The CRC itself will include several distinct areas in which persons will be screened for external contamination, decontaminated, if necessary, entered into the long-term tracking system, and discharged with appropriate instructions. In order to cope with the high number of individuals that need to be tested, the U.S. government envisages a two-tier triage scheme: a rapid Point-of-Care (POC) biodosimetry assay and a hospital- or lab-based biodosimetry assay.

The POC test will be administered at the CRC and is meant to provide a binary (exposed/not exposed) answer within 30 minutes but no dose estimate. One candidate POC assay is based on a protein signature using a lateral flow assay, like a Covid test. Individuals found to be unexposed using this test will be sent home (but may be asked to return for follow-up later).

Individuals found to be exposed, using the POC test, will be required to submit to a lab- or hospital-based test, such as DCA or CBMN, implemented ideally on a HTS platform. This test requires more time to perform but can determine dose with higher precision and can be used to assign individuals to treatment categories. For example, individuals who received lower doses would only need observation while a higher dose category would benefit from administration of one of the drugs that were recently approved by the FDA for mitigating radiation sickness. Individuals who have received even higher doses may benefit from a bone marrow transplant.

At a later stage, once all seriously injured individuals have been treated, this test can then be offered to the rest of the population to provide information on long term risks and to identify individuals requiring, for example, increased cancer screenings.

In conclusion, high throughput automated biodosimetry offers the opportunity to perform dose assessment on a large number of people in the event of a large-scale radiological or nuclear incident.

It fits well with the current operation concept, as a 2nd-tier triage separating exposed individuals into treatment categories and later for long-term epidemiological follow-up.

(Dr. Guy Garty is the Director, Radiological Research Accelerator Facility & Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology at CUMC, USA (email: gyg2101@cumc.columbia.edu)

& Dr. Venkatachalam P. is the Professor & Head with the department of Human Genetics & Associate Dean for Research, Sri RamachandraInstitute of Higher Education at Chennai, India(venkip@sriramachandra.edu.in).)

The country is seeing an increase in teenage pregnancies THE HINDU

Education 'remains the most effective contraceptive'

Zubeda Hamid

Last year, India overtook China as the world's most populous country.

According to United Nations estimates, India's population which is currently 1.4 billion, will peak at 1.7 billion or so in 2064 before settling at 1.53 billion in 2100. But even though these numbers are staggering, data indicates that population growth is slowing –the total fertility rate has dipped below the replacement level of 2.1 and is projected to dip further.

With World Population Day (July 11) around the corner, experts say India's thrust should be on ensuring the sexual and reproductive health of its young people.

A study that referenced the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) concluded that there is a significant association between years of schooling and total unmet needs for family planning and unmet needs for spacing. The results of the study are contained in the paper 'Changes in discourse on unmet need for family planning among married women in India: evidence from NFHS-5.' It was published in the *Scientific Reports* journal last year. According to the study: "The demand for unmet needs for spacing and limiting was the highest among the women in the age categories 15-19 (17.8%) and 20-24 (17.3%)."

This, says Poonam Muttreja, executive director, Population Foundation of India, is primarily due to two factors: women who get married very young are usually from backward regions and not very educated, and therefore, their agency to negotiate or even talk about family planning is limited. "This is a social norm: even if the young woman does talk to a healthcare worker, the thinking is that once they are married, they must prove their fertility with children before family planning, and therefore there is no room for access to contraception," she says.

Experts insist that India's thrust should be on ensuring the sexual and reproductive health of its young people

The other issue, Ms. Muttreja says, is that the country is increasingly seeing teenage pregnancies both among married and unmarried women, and yet, families are unwilling to accept that their unmarried children may be sexually active. "This is compounded by the lack of sex education. Globally, evidence has shown that where sex education is given, the sexual debut of a young person is postponed. It also helps eradicate misconceptions. In India, for a young person to even access condoms or any other form of contraception is culturally and socially against norms," she adds.

There is an urgent need to focus on young people, both men and women, and on their sexual and reproductive health through culturally sensitive behaviour change communication, and by offering them a basket of contraceptive options to meet their needs. She reiterated that women's education continues to be the most effective contraception.

Sumana Manohar, senior consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, also highlights the need for education among older students – those in classes 11 and 12.

Even abortion, points out Dipika Jain, director, Centre for Justice Law and Society, Jindal Global Law School, is a qualified right. "Abortion is largely criminal in India except under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, the person must qualify for the service as per the conditions of the act. Any abortion outside of the Act is criminalised. This makes access to safe and legal abortions difficult for a large section of pregnant people in India," Ms. Jain says.

(*zubeda.h@thehindu.co.in*)

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

The science of hydration

Anjali Srivastava

QUESTION 1

This specific electrolyte, essential for nerve function and muscle contraction, is often lost through sweat and must be replenished during intense physical activity. What is it?

QUESTION 2

_____ is a rare genetic disorder that causes individuals to feel extremely thirsty and drink excessive amounts of water, leading to frequent urination and potential water intoxication.

QUESTION 3

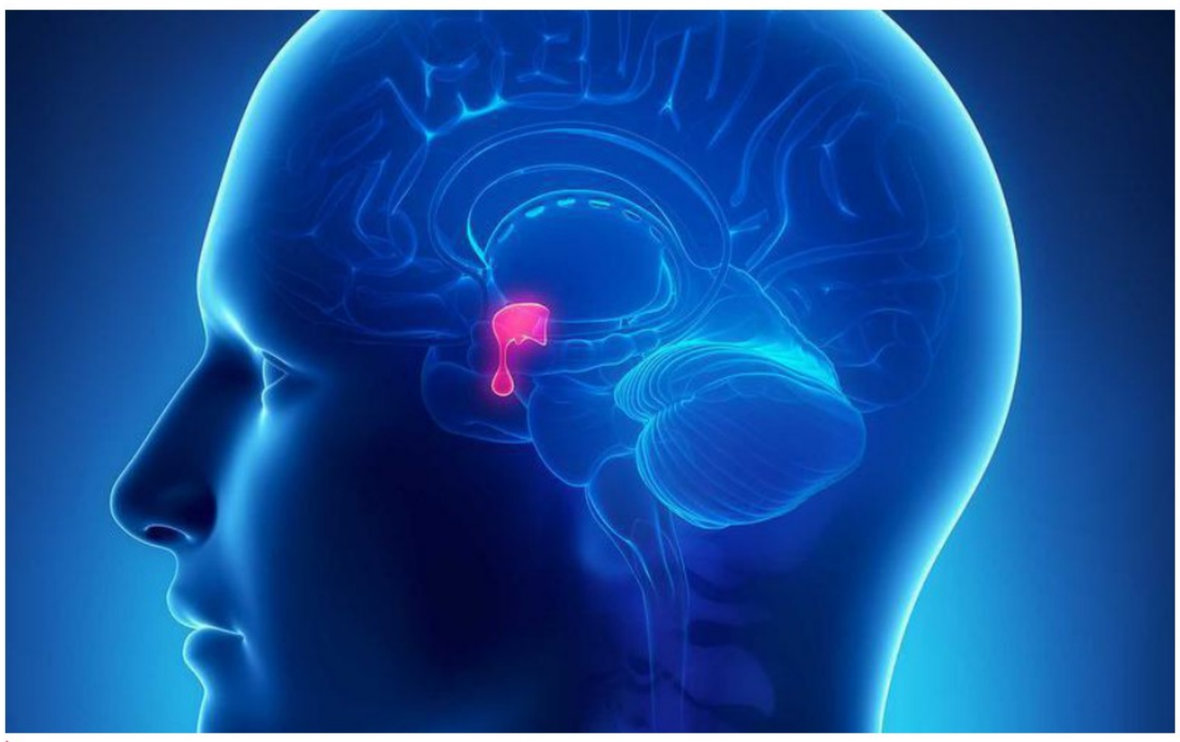
Which common beverage, often consumed for hydration, can lead to dehydration due to its diuretic properties?

QUESTION 4

Despite being vital for life, this molecule makes up a significant portion of our brain, with estimates suggesting that the human brain is composed of what percentage of water?

QUESTION 5

What is the name of the condition caused by drinking excessive amounts of water in a short period, leading to dangerously low levels of sodium in the blood?



Visual: Identify this gland in red, which releases the hormone vasopressin to help regulate the body's water balance by signalling the kidneys to retain water. GETTY IMAGES

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

#TechnologyForSustainableGrowth

LARSEN & TOUBRO

Engineering a sustainable future through resilience, innovation and excellence.

Dear Shareholders,

It gives me great pleasure to address you at my first Annual General Meeting as Chairman and Managing Director of the Larsen & Toubro Group. We are at an interesting stage in the development of the Country and the Company alike, and intend to make optimum use of the unfolding opportunities to grow in a sustainable manner.

India today stands tall as an oasis of opportunity amidst global turmoil and supply chain disruptions. The Government's continuous efforts to strengthen the domestic economy through increased capital spending, policy shifts towards improving the ease of doing business, and the creation of a world-class digital infrastructure and payments platform have all contributed to an annual GDP growth rate of at least 7% for the last three years, and over 8% in the year under review. The pursuit of '*Aatmanirbharta*' (self-reliance) through innovative schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, the Start-Up India scheme, and the National Infrastructure Pipeline, has set a strong foundation to realise a *Viksit Bharat*.

During the year under review, the Company has benefitted from these positive policy interventions, as evidenced from its stellar financial performance.

Address by
Mr. S. N. Subrahmanyan
Chairman & Managing Director

79TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | JULY 4, 2024

A Portfolio of Excellence

The Company's journey has been one of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to excellence. The diverse business portfolio comprises:

1. EPC Projects (Construction & Energy):
The Company's expertise in executing large-scale EPC projects is unparalleled. Its indelible stamp of excellence graces iconic bridges, hydrocarbon facilities, large solar fields, and infrastructure across India and beyond. Notable recent achievements include the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), Mumbai Coastal Road Phase 1 and Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya. Internationally, the Company delivered the 1.8 GWp Sudair Solar PV plant in Saudi Arabia, a gas compression facility in Algeria, and contributed to blue hydrogen infrastructure in The Netherlands, among various other projects.

2. Hi-Tech Manufacturing (Heavy Engineering and Precision Engineering & Systems):
The Company's Heavy Engineering division remains a global leader, supplying bespoke industrial equipment. It is at the forefront of adopting Industry 4.0 techniques, ensuring efficiency and quality. The Precision Engineering & Systems business focuses on indigenous design and has proudly contributed to India's lunar programme through Chandrayaan-3.

3. Services (IT, Engineering, Digital and Financial):
The Company's listed arms continue to play pivotal roles, creating shareholder value:

- **LTIMindtree:** India's 6th largest IT player and 5th largest by market capitalisation, bridging physical and digital realms.
- **L&T Technology Services (LTTS):** India's leading Engineering and Technology Services company, providing cutting-edge ER&D solutions globally.
- **L&T Finance (LTF):** Promotes financial inclusion by empowering millions with diverse financial products in the retail sector.

The Company's digital ventures, including L&T-SuFin (an integrated B2B marketplace), L&T Cloudfiniti (end-to-end data center and cloud services), L&T Semiconductor Technologies (focussed on fabless chip design) and L&T EduTech (bridging industry-academia skill gaps), showcase the Company's foresight and adaptability.

21.8 km Mumbai Trans Harbour Link – India's longest sea bridge

4. Other Businesses:

- **L&T Realty:** Crafts integrated spaces, residential complexes, and commercial hubs. Over 50 million sq.ft. of properties are currently under development. Accolades such as 'Best Realty Brand 2024', among others, affirm its commitment to quality and timely completion.
- **Construction and Mining Machinery:** The Company's in-house Product Development Centre drives cost-effective solutions, with over 40,000 active machines in the market.
- **Others:** A global leader in tyre curing machinery and a valves business operating across 61 countries are sheer testament to the product reliability.

New Milestones in Growth

This year, the Company crossed a historic milestone: annual Group Order Inflow surpassed ₹ 3 lakh crore, registering an impressive 31% growth year-on-year. This was achieved on the back of major international order wins in Hydrocarbon and Infrastructure businesses. A large, growing, and diversified Order Book of ₹ 4,75,809 crore as on March 31, 2024, with a growth of 20% over the previous year, provides clear revenue visibility in the medium term. Revenues clocked in at ₹ 2,21,113 crore, while Profit After Tax reached ₹ 13,059 crore, registering 21% and 25% growth respectively.

The Company continues to focus on shareholder value creation by divesting non-core assets, capturing cost efficiencies, and leveraging technology for productivity gains. A strategically diversified business portfolio, geographical diversification, a healthy balance sheet, and a strong order book are definite markers for long-term value creation.

In line with its strategy to grow the core and exit from concessions, the Company successfully divested its 51% stake in L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited and monetised a commercial property in the Hyderabad Metro. Improved operations, capital restructuring, support from the State Government and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) monetisation are expected to make the Metro asset value accretive over a period of time.

In FY 2023-24, the Company outperformed the Nifty 50 growth index, achieving a stupendous growth of 77% compared to the index's 29%.

Oil Production Deck Module in Saudi waters

Group Performance Overview for FY 2023-24

REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS	₹ 2,21,113 cr (up 21%)
EBITDA	₹ 23,494 cr (up 13%)
PROFIT AFTER TAX	₹ 13,059 cr (up 25%)
ORDER INFLOW	₹ 3,02,812 cr (up 31%)
ORDER BOOK	₹ 4,75,809 cr (up 20%)

Tech-tonic Shifts

The Company embarked on a journey to leverage technology for sustainable progress well ahead of its global peers. The proactive investment in digital technology and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) to automate manufacturing processes paid off during the pandemic. As India's leading infrastructure player, the Company was among the first to realise the importance of digitalisation, beginning its digital acceleration journey as early as 2016.

Remote diagnosis and support

Today, the Company leverages a vast array of technologies across its various verticals, including AI, ML, VR/AR, Cloud, Big Data & Analytics, Drones, GPS, RFID & QR Codes, LiDAR, BIM, IoT, and 3D printing. Adoption of frontier technologies like advanced sensors, embedded software and robotics is in progress. The Company has digitally connected over 15,000 assets across its global projects and manufacturing bases to a central IoT platform. All these initiatives enable the Company to make project execution faster, safer, cleaner, economical and more sustainable.

Tech-celerating Sustainable Progress

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) has emerged as a game-changer, and the Company is leveraging its power to enhance its processes across the project life cycle - from tendering to contract management to design, execution, and operation & maintenance. To fuel this innovation, the Company has launched a collaborative platform connecting aspiring data scientists with domain experts and technology champions to develop cutting-edge, future-proof solutions.

Going Green

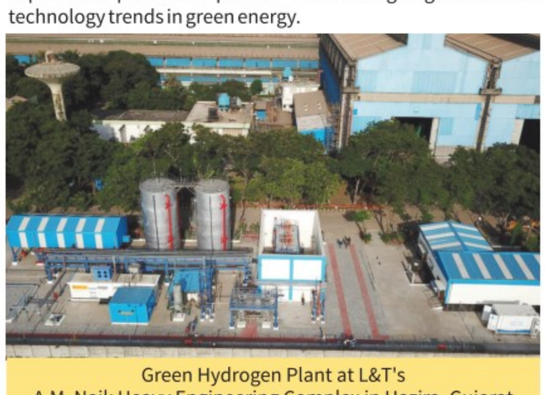
Aligned with its sustainability vision 'For A Better World', the Company has developed strong capability in executing projects for its customers in Clean Energy, Clean Mobility, Water & Sanitation, Green Infra, and other areas. Such projects help in lowering carbon emissions, improving water availability, recycling & reuse of water, scaling up energy efficiency, reducing air pollution, and enhancing resource conservation.

Green Buildings – The Company constructs green buildings which are LEED/IGBC/GRIHA-certified. In FY 2023-24, the Company created 14.8 million sq.ft. of Green Buildings infrastructure.

Clean Mobility – The Company completed the electrification of more than 3,400 track km of mass transit systems in FY 2023-24.

Clean Energy – The Company is involved in building Clean Energy projects, including renewable energy plants, primarily solar and hydro, as well as nuclear power plants. In FY 2023-24, the Company commissioned 2.2 GWp of solar capacity, 6.2 GW of nuclear power and 3.5 GW of hydel power, with additional capacity under construction at the moment.

During the year under review, the Company constituted a Green Energy Council with globally renowned energy sector experts to provide expertise and strategic guidance on technology trends in green energy.



Green Hydrogen Plant at L&T's
A.M. Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat

Growing Globally

In today's VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity) world, the key to mitigating geopolitical risk is through geographical diversification. The Company's policy of wider geographical dispersal aids broad-basing the portfolio, yielding positive results, and de-risking exposure to a particular region. At the Group level, apart from the 62% domestic share in the total order book, the Middle East accounts for 35%, while the rest of the world accounts for the balance 3%.

OxO Reactor for BASF Guangdong Integrated Project, China

Giving Back

The Company believes in fostering inclusive growth and building long-term relationships with all its stakeholders. Its CSR initiatives across health, education, skill development and water & sanitation have benefitted more than 1.6 million people. The Company has planted 4 million saplings globally and helped build resilience in rural communities through its Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP).

Health Camp being conducted as part of L&T's CSR activities

Governance & Ethics

The Company is committed to the highest ethical standards in all business dealings, fostering transparency and accountability throughout the organisation. A robust governance framework ensures compliance with regulations and global best practices including adherence to international standards of Human Rights and Fair Business Practices.

Creating Safer Workplaces

Safety remains a paramount concern for the leadership team, reflected in the Company's 'Mission Zero Harm' principle and the 'L.I.F.E.' (Live Injury-Free Everyday) framework. Enhanced supervision, more frequent safety briefings, extensive training (with AR/VR technology) and the use of robotics for hazardous operations are some of the initiatives that have further bolstered our safety performance.

People Power

The Company's success is attributable to the dedication, adaptability and accomplishments of every member of Team L&T. People policies revolve around onboarding the right talent, providing a conducive work environment, nurturing talent, offering opportunities for learning and self-development, empowering collaboration and innovation, recognising and rewarding achievements, and such. These policies have enabled the Company to be rated as a Great Place to Work (GPTW) for the second consecutive year.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Company's transformation into a tech-driven conglomerate has improved its Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) quotient. Exclusive career-assisting schemes for females and women-friendly facilities in offices are moving the Company towards achieving the Lakshya target of women constituting 10% of the workforce by FY 2025-26.

Celebrating Women Power at L&T

In Conclusion

Today, the Company stands tall in the midst of challenges, armed with strategic foresight, technological prowess, and an unyielding commitment to excellence. The future is bright, with the promise of sustained growth, innovation and value creation for all stakeholders.

I would like to thank our employees, our customers, supply chain partners and the Government for their contributions, directly and indirectly, to our growth. I also thank my fellow Board members for their invaluable support in guiding the Company through volatile times when there are multiple variables at play. My special thanks to you – my dear shareholders – for the trust you have reposed in us. You remain an invaluable pillar of strength, and I look forward to your continued support in our journey towards achieving higher levels of excellence.

For over eight decades, L&T has served as a cornerstone of India's infrastructure and industrial development, continuously pushing boundaries to ensure that the Nation remains at the forefront of global progress.

It is this very dedication to excellence that has earned the Company a reputation of a nation-builder, instrumental in shaping the landscape of a new, modern and aspiring India.

L&T BUILDS THE THINGS THAT MAKE INDIA PROUD.

Jai Hind

CBMC/SSP/24-07-02

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

SIM cards blocked by Pakistan to encourage tax payment

2.1 lakh. Pakistan has blocked the SIM cards of users who have not filed tax returns in a bid to widen the revenue bracket. Only 5.2 million people of the over 240 million population filed tax returns in 2022. AFP

Share of daily deaths in 10 Indian cities due to pollution

7.2 in per cent. On average, over 7% of all daily deaths in 10 of the most polluted cities in India including Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai, were linked to PM2.5 levels higher than WHO guidelines for safe exposure. PTI

The rise in cargo traffic across major Indian ports in June

6.8 in per cent. Cargo traffic across 12 major Indian ports rose to 69.08 million tonnes (MT) in June from 64.69 MT in the year-ago period, with 10 ports showing positive growth. PTI

Average share of votes won by Lok Sabha winners this year

50.58 in per cent. There was a decrease of 2% in the average votes won by the winners of Lok Sabha elections in 2024 as compared to the last general elections. PTI

Growth in coal sector among eight key infra sectors in May

10.2 in per cent. The coal sector has had the highest growth, following the electricity industry among the eight core industries for May 2024. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The lack of leadership at TISS

Why did over 100 staff members at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences receive termination letters, which after two days were withdrawn? Is there a leadership void at the premier social sciences institute? How has this affected students as well as the staff?

EXPLAINER

Maitri Porecha

The story so far:

Over a 100 staff members of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) were in for a shock, after they received termination letters on June 28, and were asked to not report to work come July. Within two days of this development, they were told that the termination letters had been withdrawn and that they could continue working as the Tata Education Trust (TET), which funds their salaries, had now assured to make funds available to support their salaries.

What happened?

A month before the termination letters, up to 55 teachers and 60 non-teaching staff had an inkling that their jobs could be in trouble, because even as the academic year of 2023-24 was winding up in April, there was no clarity from TET on the renewal of funding of their contractual positions. "Some of these staff has been working with TISS for up to fifteen years. Since the last two to three months we have been writing emails to pro-VC Mr. Shankar Das, who is a deputy to the current VC [Vice Chancellor] Manoj Tiwari. We received no reply or clarity from Mr. Das on the situation," a senior faculty member said citing anonymity. TISS is largely funded by the University Grants Commission, but staff salaries, certain courses and funds for maintenance are funded by the TET.

What has been happening at TISS?

From 2004 onwards, TISS had widened its scope of work, and from close to 15 programmes including Masters' and Diplomas, it expanded its offering to over 55 programmes including dual degrees and foreign university collaborations. "Under the directorship of late Prof. S. Parsuraman, TISS was flourishing, with students undertaking enormous field work under the research guidance of teachers," said a TISS senior professor, requesting anonymity.

In limbo: The Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) in Mumbai. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Parsuraman was the longest serving director of TISS from 2004 to 2018. However, trouble started brewing in TISS from 2016 onwards, when it decided to stop student aid to those belonging to marginalised communities in all of its four campuses in Mumbai, Tuljapur, Hyderabad and Guwahati.

"It has been a downward spiral from then on," the professor added.

After Mr. Parsuraman's tenure, Prof. Shalini Bharath, a public health researcher who has extensively worked on HIV access issues served as a director for five years.

In 2023, the UGC regulations were changed, which brought appointments in TISS under the central government's purview, as over 50% of its funding is from the Centre.

"After Prof. Bharath retired, the director of Indian Institute of Management (Mumbai) Manoj Tiwari, took up the additional charge of an acting director as well as Vice Chancellor, until a full time director is appointed. He was supposed to have interim charge for six months, but his term was extended by another six months after delays were faced in appointing a Director," another professor said. "A social science research institute like TISS should be led by a director who has a relevant backgrounding in social sciences. Mr. Tiwari is trained in engineering and management, and it is an incongruity that he is heading the institute."

How has a lack of leadership affected the institute?

After the tweak of the UGC regulations, administrative bodies of TISS were also supposed to undergo an overhaul. Sources at TISS say that in a classic case of 'mismanagement,' these bodies have not yet been made fully operational.

After the central government took over the TISS administration, the erstwhile 'Governing Board,' the highest decision making body of the institute, earlier headed by a nominee of the Tata Group, S. Ramadorai who was also CEO of Tata Consultancy Services, and included two to three faculty members as well as an equal number of external members, stood dissolved. The government decided that this would be replaced by an 'Executive Council,' headed by the VC. "It has been over nine months, but the new council is yet to come into full operation. We are hearing that the Executive Council may have been formulated but it is not yet officially notified. With the top decision making body of the institute being in a limbo, it is not an over reach to say that decisions are being taken in a centralised and in an arbitrary way," a professor quoted above said.

How has this affected students?

After the executive council, the academic council is the second-most important body in TISS. "The academic council is vital to all semester activities in the institute. What is disheartening is that the academic council is yet to convene to approve results for major programmes including Masters, PhD, Diplomas and Certificate courses, thus leaving the students in a lurch," the professor said.

While the students were supposed to receive their results in May, this has now been delayed by three months, and their convocation has been pushed to August. "The delay has affected the future of over thousand students who graduate out of TISS every year, and it affects their future plans of studying abroad or pursuing careers as they have not been awarded their degrees," said the professor.

THE GIST

- Over a 100 staff members of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) were in for a shock, after they received termination letters on June 28, and were asked to not report to work come July.
- In 2023, the UGC regulations were changed, which brought appointments in TISS under the central government's purview, as over 50% of its funding is from the Centre.
- While the students were supposed to receive their results in May, this has now been delayed by three months, and their convocation has been pushed to August.

What went wrong with the Hajj pilgrimage this year?

How do unauthorised pilgrims enter Saudi Arabia at the time of Hajj? Have such tragedies happened before?

Ziya Us Salam

The story so far:

Hajj, a gathering of nearly two million Muslim pilgrims, which falls in the last month of the Islamic calendar, has been in news again. More than 1,300 casualties were reported due to extreme heat in Saudi Arabia at this time of the year. Most casualties were reported from Arafat, where the pilgrims pause on their way to Muzdalfa. Arafat is the place where the Prophet Muhammad delivered his farewell sermon to 1,44,000 pilgrims in 632 A.D. This vigil at Arafat is an essential part of the pilgrimage without which the Hajj is considered invalid. Many casualties took place as the pilgrims moved from Arafat to Mina in the scorching heat.

What is Hajj?

Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. This pilgrimage to Mecca is an essential part of the faith and any person who is economically and physically sound has to undertake the trip once in their lifetime. Prophet Muhammad is said to have undertaken this pilgrimage shortly before breathing his last in 632 AD. The Hajj journey follows the lunar calendar. Accordingly, it falls about 11 days earlier every year. This year's pilgrimage started at the conclusion of the second week of June. For the upcoming couple of years, the pilgrimage will be undertaken in harsh weather with temperature exceeding 50 degrees Celsius.

What happened this year?

The Saudi authorities reserve a fixed quota for all major countries, depending on the Muslim population, for issue of Hajj visas. It helps to plan the stay and movement of pilgrims in the desert state. The authorities issued Hajj visas to a little more than 18 lakh people but the Hajj was undertaken by over two million pilgrims. This means that around 2 lakh people were unauthorised entrants.

The Saudi authorities insisted that most pilgrims with valid Hajj visas were able to complete the Hajj rituals with the best possible facilities, and there were few deaths beyond natural causes of old age or illness. According to Saudi Health Minister Fahad bin Abdurrahman Al-Jalajel, some 83% of the 1,301 fatalities were unauthorised pilgrims who undertook the journey without requisite precautions at this time of extreme summer temperatures.

Who are 'unauthorised' pilgrims?

The unauthorised, non-documented pilgrims often come over from neighbouring countries of Jordan, Egypt and Iraq on a visit visa a little before the Hajj season begins. Some are also blue collar workers from India and Pakistan who while having a valid work visa, are not entitled to undertake the pilgrimage without proper permission and documentation. The non-documented visitors are usually economically too weak to bear the cost of the pilgrimage through the official route which takes at least 3,000 dollars. Hence, they often take recourse to agents who offer them the journey for half the cost. The agents take the money in advance and often disappear after these men and women land in Saudi Arabia, leaving them in the lurch. The visit visa holders are not allowed entry into Mecca at the time of Hajj. So, these visitors/pilgrims often undertake arduous routes through the desert to circumvent officials.

While those who take the approved route are provided with all possible facilities by the host country, including transportation on air-conditioned vehicles with constant supply of water and medical facilities, illegal entrants are left under the blazing sun with temperatures often crossing 50 degrees Celsius. Many walk on their own from Arafat to Mina, a distance of around 15 kilometres. Unlike others, they have no healthcare facilities to fall back on. Also, most pilgrims in this category are old, having saved every penny for years for this journey.

Hajj has always been a high-risk journey. Besides the spread of communicable diseases due to the intermingling of millions, there were major tragedies in 1990, 1994, 1998 and 2003. Many of these were avoidable incidents as they resulted from stampede caused by pilgrims taking a non-specified route or going in the opposite direction, in ignorance of Hajj rituals. Since then, Saudi authorities have widened the pathways, adding new floors to the Haram in Mecca to enable the pilgrims to complete the journey peacefully.

THE GIST

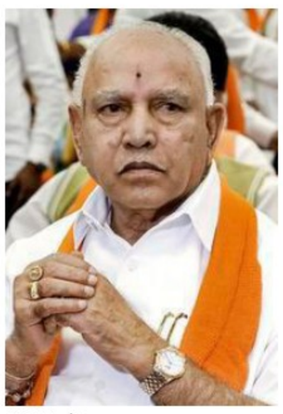
- Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. This pilgrimage to Mecca is an essential part of the faith and any person who is economically and physically sound has to undertake the trip once in a lifetime.
- The Saudi authorities insisted that most pilgrims with valid Hajj visas were able to complete the Hajj rituals with the best possible facilities, and there were few deaths beyond natural causes of old age or illness.
- The unauthorised, non-documented pilgrims often come over from neighbouring countries of Jordan, Egypt and Iraq on a visit visa a little before the Hajj season begins.

POCSO case: BSY told to be present in court on July 15

The former Chief Minister is accused of molesting a 17-year-old girl

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The CID has filed a 750-page chargesheet against four persons in the case. Three associates of Yediyurappa charged with destruction of evidence


B.S. Yediyurappa

The Fast Track Special Court - 1 to try the cases filed under the POCSO Act in the city, on Thursday, issued a summons to former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa to appear before it in person on July 15. This is for framing charges against him in connection with the chargesheet the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has filed against him for alleged sexual harassment of a 17-year-old girl.

Against four persons

The CID filed a 750-page chargesheet against four persons in the case – for sexual harassment against the former Chief Minister, and destruction of evidence against three of his associates, on June 27.

Mr. Yediyurappa is accused of molesting the 17-year-old girl who had come to his house seeking help along with her mother on February 2, 2024. The case was registered on March 14 and later handed over to the CID. The chargesheet says that Mr. Yediyurappa also tried to bribe the victim and her mother with money to cover up his alleged crime.

The case came up for hearing on Thursday and the judge took cognizance of the chargesheet and issued a summons to Mr. Yediyurappa and the other accused to be present in the court for the next hearing on July 15. The court will take up the case for framing charges that day, sources said.

Judicial custody of Darshan, associates extended till July 18

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Darshan FILE PHOTO

Darshan's wife has written to Police Commissioner B. Dayananda requesting him not to mention Pavithra Gowda as the wife of the actor

The 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on Thursday extended the judicial custody of Kannada actor Darshan and his 16 associates till July 18 in the Renukaswamy murder case.

The investigating officials, opposing the bail, had submitted that the probe into the SIM cards used by the accused, which were allegedly sourced from different people, was still on and granting them bail would hamper the investigation.

In the remand application submitted by the police, it was stated that the prime accused – Pavithra Gowda, Darshan, Pradosh, Karthik, Keshavamurthy, and Nikhil Nayak – used SIM cards procured from different people and investigation was on to trace the SIM owners to record their statement after questioning.

The mobile phones and DVRs seized from the accused have been sent to FSL Hyderabad for analysis and the report in this regard was awaited, the investigating officials submitted.

"The details of the money paid to purchase the electric shock torch online need to be gathered. The source of ₹83.6 lakh in cash seized from the accused during the course of the investigation, which was paid to them by different people, needs to be probed in detail and their statement has to be recorded. The accused contacted many people after the commission of the offence, which is still under investigation. Granting them bail will hamper the investigation," the police submitted before the magistrate.

Meanwhile, Vijayalakshmi, Darshan's wife, has written to Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda requesting him not to mention Pavithra Gowda as the wife of the actor. In the letter, submitted on June 25, Ms. Vijayalakshmi said Pavithra Gowda is a friend of Darshan and not wife, as wrongly stated by Mr. Dayananda while briefing the media earlier, which has been reiterated even by the Home Minister. "I am the only legally wedded wife and our marriage was solemnised at Dharmasthala in May 2003," she said in the letter.

She said that wrongly mentioning the relationship may cause difficulties for her and her son in the future and requested Mr. Dayananda to set the police records straight.

INBRIEF

Dance festival from today

The Academy of Music will present Nrutya Rangoli, a three-day national dance festival, at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval from Friday. 'Krishna Bhakti Mala', a dance presentation by Rasika Dance Ensemble, will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Friday. Saturday's programme features Bharatanatyam at 6 p.m. followed by a Kathak performance at 6.45 p.m. 'Krishna - Fire to Frost' – a dance production on Draupadi by Nirupama-Rajendra and Abhinava Dance Company will be held on Sunday from 6.30 p.m.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated July 5, we have an In Focus story that looks at how Mysuru is recovering from its COVID-19 pandemic setback as tourist arrivals in the city have crossed almost 40 lakh. The numbers for the first three months of 2024-25 are also on the higher side. Over 11 lakh persons have already visited the city between April and June.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (July 5, Friday), the following articles are available:

- The lack of leadership at TISS **bit.ly/tisscontroversy**
- Radiation biodosimetry: the ABCs of responding to a radiological event **bit.ly/Radiationbiodosimetry**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Badly maintained power infrastructure poses hazard to pedestrians in city

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

In 2023, Energy Minister K.J. George had ordered removal of all the optical fibre cables that were passing over electrical wires

Residents of Shivajinagar have complained about wires hanging from transformers posing a threat to them. JAHNAVI T.R.

Walking on the streets of Bengaluru has turned into a scary affair owing to dangling wires and exposed electricity infrastructure. In many localities, tangled wires can be seen dangling from electricity poles and even lamp posts. At times, cables snap and fall on the pavement, making pedestrians apprehensive about walking on footpaths.

Chandrashekhar Rao, a resident of Basavanagudi, said, "These wires are dangerous. In our locality, they have been like this for at least a month. During the monsoon, it is even harder to dodge these wires. Additionally, the wires and cables lie so low that they block the gates and doors of residences."

Apart from the danger posed by wires, the doors of several Ring Main Units (RMU), which are set up on footpaths, are open. It is not unusual for wires to be sneaking out of them. On many transformers, the doors of control boxes are open.

Srikanth S., a private employee at a finance firm at Shivajinagar, said, "In an area as busy as Shivajinagar, wires are all over the place. Doors of electricity-related infrastructure fixed on footpaths are open. I do not feel safe when high-voltage devices are lying open on the road. During rains, it is a nightmare."

Besides these areas, similar complaints have come from Sadashivnagar, Hebbal, Indiranagar, Majestic, Jakkur, Yeshwantpur, and Rajajinagar.

"Wires have been dangling in our locality for at least four months. During monsoon, it can be hazardous to walk on the footpath," said Ramya Shridhar, a resident of Yeshwantpur.

Mahantesh Bilagi, Managing Director, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), said, "We are continuously identifying and rectifying infrastructure that pose a hazard to pedestrians. Once we receive a complaint on our helpline number (1912), we attend to the problem immediately."

Along with electricity lines, optical fibre cables (OFC) have made the situation worse. In 2023, Energy Minister K.J. George had ordered removal of all the OFCs that were passing over electrical wires.

Mr. Bilagi said, "Accordingly, we have removed the OFCs, which were going over our poles. The ones that are on lamp posts should be taken care of by the BBMP."

(*With inputs from Diya Vinekar and Smruti S.*)

DKS to meet party workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will meet party workers and office-bearers at the party office on Queen's Road here between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday to address their grievances. The party workers and office-bearers may call Ph.: 7899116899 to register for the meet.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. HE-TRD-2024-25-OT-16 Dated: 28.06.2024

The undersigned on behalf of the President of India invites e-tenders for the following works:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Supply of Printing and fixing of sectioning boards in TRD depots, Section controller rooms, Station master rooms and TPC boards of Hubballi Division.	Rs. 2,24,672/-

Last date of submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 29.07.2024**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Hubballi

PUB/224/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client is desirous of purchasing the Schedule Property from **M/s.Prasiddhi Ventures**, a Partnership Firm, having Office at No.9, Commerce House, unit No.405, 4th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru- 560 052. The said Firm has represented that, it has purchased a Larger Extent of the Land measuring 3.00 Acres 34 Guntas, which is inclusive of the Schedule Property, under a Sale Deed dated 27.06.2022, from Smt.Tamizhselvi, wife of Sri.Uttam Kumar Das, and others. We are in the process of securitizing the title to the Schedule Property.

Any person/s having any manner of claims/objections for the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property, may lodge their claim/s, objection/s, with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this publication. Any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/ objections.

SCHEDULE -PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of the Dry Agricultural Land bearing **Sy.No.72/31,** (Old Sy.No.72/2), **measuring 0 Acres 30 Guntas,** situated at Thigalachowdadenahalli, Sarjapura-3 Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, and bounded on : **East by: Kadugodi Main Road, West by: Sy.No.72/1, North by: Sy.No.72/30, and South by: Kaluve.**

Y.S.H.Reddy, Advocate
No.503, 1st Floor, Sai Leela Suites, 1st Main, 7th Cross, H.M.T.Layout, Parallel to 80 Feet Road, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru- 560 032. Mobile: 98863 78570.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KRISHNARAO Netinti R/at 20-1 3rd cross Muniyappa layout, Murgeshpallaya Bengaluru-560017, have changed my daughter's name from Netinti Pujyasri to Pujyasri Netinti vide affidavit dtd: 02.07.2024 before Notary A. R. Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

I, KRISHNARAO Netinti R/at 20-1 3rd cross Muniyappa layout Murgeshpallaya Bengaluru -560017 have changed my son's name from Govardhan Nethinti to Govardhan Netinti vide affidavit dtd: 03.07. 2024 before Notary A R Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE SMALL CAUSES JUDGE & ADDL CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU [SCCH-09]
C.C No.10125/2017

BETWEEN: Smt.Aruna TV ... COMPLAINANT
AND: M/s Vanpac Systems & Ors ... **ACCUSED**

PROCLAMATION NOTICE
NOTICE TO ACCUSED:

M/S VANPAC SYSTEMS, No.189, 2nd Main Road, 2nd Cross, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560-018, Represented by, M.A Sudarshan, M.A Sateesh,

WHEREAS a complaint has been made before me that you have committed the offence of punishable under Section 138 & 142 of NI Act, and it has been returned that the above mentioned persons cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown on my satisfaction that the said accused has been absconded or concealing themselves to avoid the service of the Warrant; PROCLAMATION is hereby made that the above mentioned accused, is required to appear at Small Causes Judge & Addl Chief Judicial Magistrate [SCCH-09] AT BENGALURU to answer the said complaint on the **06-08-2024.**

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 04-07-2024.

By order of the court, Assistant Registrar, Court of Small causes, Bangalore.

Advocate For Complainant:
V.B. SHIVKUMAR
#230, 4th Main, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560-018.
Mob: 9886117443.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
MADRAS RACE CLUB
CIN : U74999TN1922NPL001455
Regd. Office : Post Box 2639
Guindy, Chennai – 600 032.
Website : www.madrasraceclub.com
Tel. No. 91-44 22351171/2/3/5 & 22350774
Email Id : secretary@madrasraceclub.com

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023-24

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting ('AGM')** of the **MADRAS RACE CLUB** ('The Club') for the year 2023-2024 is scheduled to be held on **Friday, 2nd August 2024 at 5.00 p.m. (IST) at the Registered Office of the Club, situated at Guindy, Chennai – 600 032, and also through Video Conference ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM")** to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of the AGM. Instructions for Members intending to attend the AGM at the Venue and vote at the venue or join the Annual General Meeting electronically and vote electronically are detailed in the Notice of the AGM.

Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2023-2024 has been sent through electronic mode to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Club and hard copy has been posted to those who do not have or who have not furnished the email id. The same will also be available on the Club's website at **www.madrasraceclub.com** and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), **www.evoting.nsdl.com** the service providers for assisting such members who wish to participate in the meeting electronically.

Club Members are requested to register / update their email address by writing to the Club with details of their membership number and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN Card as identity proof and self-attested copy of any document (viz. Driving Licence, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the member at **secretary@madrasraceclub.com** or to **evoting@nsdl.com**

The Club has engaged the services of NSDL as the authorised agency for assisting Members in participating in the AGM electronically and for providing e-voting facility. Members can cast their vote online from **10.00 A.M. (IST) on Tuesday, 30th July 2024, till 5.00 P.M. (IST) on Thursday, 1st August 2024.** At the end of remote e-voting period, the facility shall be disabled. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend / participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

Only those members, whose names are recorded in the Register of Members as on the 'cut-of-date' ie. **Thursday, 27th June, 2024** only shall be entitled to vote.

In terms of Articles of Association of the Club, no Club Member shall be entitled to vote at or take part in any meeting of the Club until all moneys due to the Club by him have been paid. Hence, Club Members are requested to settle all their dues on or before **5.00 P.M. on Thursday, 25th July, 2024** in order to cast their vote.

Queries / grievances, if any, with regard to e-voting, may be addressed to the Secretary, Madras Race Club, through e-mail at **secretary@madrasraceclub.com** OR may please visit Help and FAQs section available at **www.evoting.nsdl.com** or contact No. **022 4886 7000.**

By Order of the
Committee of Management of
MADRAS RACE CLUB
S.NIRMAL PRASAD
Secretary
Place : Chennai
Date : 27.06.2024

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DIMPLE Chhaganlal Jain, r/at Flat-2FD Pranav Radhakrishna Apt No:67, K R Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore 560004 have changed my name as Dimple Jain vide affidavit dtd 03.07.24 sworn before Notary Sumangala Hegde, Bluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-56)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 7402 OF 2022

BETWEEN:
ICICI Bank Ltd,
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M Rohit Ali S/o Ishrath Ali M, Aged about 26 years, ...PLAINTIFF

AND:
Mr. Munikrishna G.M,
S/o Muniyappa, Aged about 40 years, R/a#48, Godogahalli, Budi Kote Post Bangarpet, Kolar- 563 114. ...DEFENDANT

Summons/Notice through Paper Publication

Mr. Munikrishna G.M,
S/o Muniyappa,Aged about 40 years, R/a#48, Godogahalli, Budi Kote Post Bangarpet, Kolar- 563 114. ...DEFENDANT

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 03,80,874/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble city civil & Session Judge Court, (CCH-56), At Bangalore, in person or by a advocate/pleader on 22/08/2024 at 11.00 A.M to answer the questions of the same.

Failing which the matter will be heard and determined.

"Ex-Parte" Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 29th day of 06, 2024.

By the order of the Court
The Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plantiff
Mr. KN. Arvinda Navada
Advocate enter No.177/1, (88), 1st Floor, Besides 12th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru-560 002.

Case against woman for running drug racket in city from Dubai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Central Crime Branch of Bengaluru police on Wednesday registered an FIR against a woman for allegedly running a drug racket from Dubai. The case was registered based on a complaint by a city-based businessman alleging that his son who is in the real estate business was forced to consume synthetic drugs.

When the complainant confronted his son, he allegedly revealed that he was supplied drugs by a peddler identified as Ranjan at the behest of Natalia Virvani, who is presently staying in the UAE with her mother. The complainant alleged that Natalia used to source hydro ganja and MDMA from her network and supply them to Ranjan, who in turn would sell them to customers.

Natalia, according to the complainant, used to fly between Dubai and Bengaluru frequently and operate a private bank account to receive money . CCB officials have registered a case against Natalia, her mother, and others charging them under various sections of the NDPS Act.

Two killed in separate accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 48-year-old bike rider was killed when a truck knocked him down on NICE road near Kengeri on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Aslam, a resident of Madiwala and a real estate agent who was on his way towards Tumakuru Road from Hosur Road.

Aslam lost balance and came under the wheels of the truck. The Kengeri traffic police arrested the truck driver and seized the vehicle. In another accident, a 26-year-old private firm employee was killed after a BMTC bus knocked him down at Makali near Nelamangala on Wednesday.

The deceased, Sridhar, was walking to work when the accident occurred.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUL. 05	
RISE	05:58 SET 18:50
RISE	05:05 SET 18:32
SATURDAY, JUL. 06	
RISE	05:59 SET 18:50
RISE	06:04 SET 19:26
SUNDAY, JUL. 07	
RISE	05:59 SET 18:50
RISE	07:01 SET 20:15

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	28	21
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C A slight warm weather with cloudy sky to continue. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The day will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain or thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

IN THE LIMELIGHT

On Gods and godmen in popular Hindi cinema

Popular cinema provides abounding social and cultural logic for engagement with religious ideas. The question is whether popular cinema has the space available for critical relations with gods and godmen

Dev Nath Pathak

The month of June 2024 was rife with news about the recently released Yash Raj film production, *Maharaj*, directed by Siddharth Malhotra. According to many critics it was another badly made film in spite of a power-packed performance by actor Jaideep Ahlawat. The film, however, grabbed our eyeballs for two reasons. One is that the film, based on a historical 1862 Maharaj libel case, was a criticism of blind faith. The protagonist Karshandas Mulji, played by the debutant Jaunaid Khan, is a social reformer and journalist who challenged the religious conservatism of the godman, Maharaj, played by Ahlawat. Secondly, the film courted legal and social controversy as a case of offence to religious sentiment was filed in the Gujarat High Court which eventually ruled in favour of the film.

India has been witness to many such cases against popular films dealing with issues related to the dominant religion, that is, Hinduism. One can quickly recall some of the films that met with such upheavals, for example *PK* (Raju Hirani, 2014) and *OMG* (Amit Rai, 2023). The cardinal question is whether popular cinema has the space available for humanistic and critical relations with gods and godmen.

Hindu mythology in cinema

Many scholars of cinema such as Ashish Rajadhyaksha, Ravi Vasudevan, Aruna Vasudev, and Madhava Prasad have critically discussed the locus standi of early cinema in India. In the light of such discussion, there dawns an understanding that humanised relationships with gods and godmen is not new to cinema. Mythological tales were central to silent cinema. In the era of the the film maker Dhundiraj Govind Phalke (1817-1944), popularly known as Dadasaheb Phalke, there were films such as *Satyavan Savitri* (1914), *Satyavadi Raja Harishchandra* (1917), and *Kaliya Mardan* (1919). These films were not merely about devotional surrender but also about humans' personalisation of religion and spirituality. The trend continued even after cinema got sound after the first talkie film *Alam Ara* (1931). Vijay Bhatt's famous film *Ram Rajya* (1943) also had Mahatma Gandhi in the audience in spite of his reservations about the medium of cinema. Moreover, there were many films that offered criticism of dominant Hindu values. Franz Osten's *Achhut Kanya* (1936) is always remembered as a historical milestone. The film ridiculed the godmen who were custodians of discriminatory Brahmanical values.

Chidananda Dasgupta, the film critic and historian, who was a co-founder of the Calcutta Film Society with the legendary film maker and Oscar awardee Satyajit Ray, had written about cinema's tryst with mythological gods. Though more known for his translations of the works of Rabindranath Tagore, Manik Bandopadhyaya, and Jibananda Das, Dasgupta's critical reading of early cinema is significant. In his book *Seeing is Believing* published by Penguin he made the romance between early popular Hindi cinema and Hindu mythology dramatically vivid. The stories of gods, goddesses, and monsters that Hindu believers had only heard in the oral tradition became available for visual-sensorial experiences in the first decade of modern cinema in India. Seeing gods alive on screen meant that they were available for a relationship with mortals. The earthy mortals were bound to apply their social and cultural logic in the newly forged relationship with the divine. Perceived through the prism of human emotions, gods and goddesses became available for friendly associations. In addition to evoking devotion and surrender, the gods also inspired humans to raise questions and put the divine through uncanny trials in these mythological films.

Cult classic: Indian artist Ranjit Dahiya works on a mural of Amitabh Bachchan from his film *Deewar* in Mumbai in 2012. AFP

Thus Hindi cinema has consistently tried to free gods and spirituality from the clutches of godmen and dominant values even while restoring faith.

Critical engagement

A film scholar such as Rachel Dwyer has put many such films under the label of Hindi socials. Such films were not to be anti-religious, but they do tend to trigger a critical engagement with religious notions. Two examples from the past is worth recalling. One was a film directed by Kidar Nath Sharma based on a famous novel by the Hindi littérateur Bhagwati Charan Varma titled *Chitralekha*. The film by the same title was made twice by Sharma in 1941 and in 1964. The film is about a courtesan Chitralekha and the spiritual guru Kumargiri. The latter seeks to free a prince named Beejgupt from the enchantment of the courtesan. The 1941 version had Miss Mehtab playing the role of Chitralekha while Meena Kumari essayed the same role in the latter version. Another significant trivia about the 1941 version is that it met with objection from the Censor Board for a bathing scene of the actress Mehtab. There was however no controversy regarding the most crucial depiction, that is, the sexual downfall of the saintly spiritual guru, Kumargiri. The cinematic narrative unfolds a philosophical debate between the beautiful courtesan and a morally upright saint. Conceding defeat, the courtesan follows the footprints of the guru and joins the path of spiritual upliftment through penance. However, the guru falls for Chitralekha and realises the weakness of a dehumanising morality and other worldly spirituality.

The songs in both versions of *Chitralekha* presented a disarming criticism of dominant religious notions. In the 1941 version, the playback singer Ramdulari sang some of the most potent lyrics penned by Kidar Sharma, and composed by musician Jhande Khan who was trained in Indian classical music. The title of the song is self-explanatory, *tum jao bade bhagwan bane* (pretentious godliness, go away). Likewise, the 1964 version had innumerable songs penned by the legendary poet Sahir Ludhiyanvi sung by Lata Mangeshkar against the musical composition of Roshan. One of the songs derides the guru saying, *sansar se bhage firte ho bhagwan ko tum kya paoge* (what god will you find, for, you are on a run away from the world).

Another film seeking to liberate god and godliness from the clutches of godmen and societal dominance is I. S. Johar directed *Nastik* (1954). A commercially successful film, *Nastik* had a song sung by Kavi Pradeep to the tune of musician C. Ramachandran that summed up the temperament of the whole film. The song in the nasal voice of the singer can still be heard in the nooks and corners of India, which says *dekh tere sansar ki halat kya ho bhagwan* (see what your world has come to, God). The film was set against the backdrop of the violence of Partition in India revealing the depth of social fissures. The protagonist Anil turns to atheism and is a sworn enemy of the priest, the custodian of religious virtues. The film had an acrimonious relationship between the protagonist who is an anti-hero and god.

At last, seldom could one forget a gem of popular Hindi cinema directed by Yashraj Chopra in 1975, *Deewar* (The Wall). The quintessential angry young man named Vijay was essayed by Amitabh Bachchan. The film depicted the India of the 1970s which was rife with social and political frustration that enabled the character of Vijay to maintain an unusual relationship with god. He was an agnostic who had never entered a temple before except in the climax of the film. This is an iconic scene that is hitherto etched in collective memory. Upon his mother's accident, Vijay enters the temple to deliver a critical monologue in front of the idol of lord Shiva. It is not blind faith which made a mortal character Vijay talk to Shiva. Both seemed to be in eternal dialogue with each other. In the relationship between Vijay and lord Shiva one got to see varied emotions such as anger, fear, contempt, and most importantly, love and devotion.

Suffice to say that popular cinema provides abounding social and cultural logic for engagement with religious ideas. With or without protests, such relationships and engagements shall thrive.

Dev Nath Pathak is Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, South Asian University.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Keel over (S. N. Azad, New Delhi)."

" 'Keel over' means 'to turn over or fall down.'

He was walking along with me. Suddenly, he keeled over."

" 'Mysophobia' (A. S. Das, Cuttack)."

" 'Mysophobia' means 'morbid fear of contamination.'

She suffers from mysophobia.

The 'y' in the word is pronounced like the 'y' in 'my'."

"Never-never (Mohd. J. Khan, Hyderabad)."

"The idiom is 'on the never-never'. It means 'on the hire purchase system'. This is a colloquial expression used mainly in British English.

I bought the washing machine on the never-never."

"Meaning of the word 'chutzpah' (J. Balasubramaniam, Madras)."

"This is American slang. A person with 'chutzpah' is a brash, self-confident person. This supreme self-confidence often makes him/her appear extremely offensive or rude, and results in his/her hurting the sensibilities of others.

Venkat has stolen Rs. 50,000 from the company. Now he is applying to the company for a loan to pay the money back. That takes chutzpah.

Rama was less talented than Lalitha. She made up the difference in chutzpah.

In the book *The Joys of Yiddish*, Leo Rosten writes: "Chutzpah is that quality enshrined in a man who, having killed his mother and father, throws himself on the mercy of the court because he is an orphan." The word is Yiddish in origin and is spelt in different ways – chutzpa, chutzpah and chuzpa. The ch is pronounced 'h' as in 'hot,' 'have' and 'hand.' The 'u' is pronounced like the 'u' in 'pull' and full;' 'tz' is pronounced like the "ts" in words like 'bits,' 'sits' and 'bats.' The 'a' in 'pah' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China' and the final 'h' is silent So the word is pronounced 'hutspa.' Some pronounce the 'u' in the word like the 'oo' in 'fool.'"

"Hunger after (S. Sumati, Kozhikode)."

"You hunger after something when you have an uncontrollable desire to have it; you do everything possible to achieve it. "I can't understand his hunger after fame." 'Hunger for' means the same as 'hunger after.'"

"Lord Venkateswara blesses the pilgrims to each back home early – from 11th June 92, Narayanadri Express reaches Secunderabad at 08-05 a.m." – SCR Advertisement in a newspaper (Submitted by R. Ramachandra Rao, Hyderabad)."

Published in The Hindu on August 4, 1992.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on events and personalities connected with July 5

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

On this date in 1686, which path-breaking book written in Latin by a science genius was authorised by the noted diarist Samuel Pepys who was the then president of the Royal Society?

QUESTION 2

Which country in the Maghreb region of North Africa got its Independence from Spain on July 5 in 1962.

QUESTION 3

Which legendary crooner's debut single 'That's All Right' was recorded on July 5, 1954?

QUESTION 4

Who created history and how by winning the Gentleman's Singles title at Wimbledon on this date 49 years ago?

QUESTION 5

What type of animal was Dolly that achieved the distinction of being the first mammal to be cloned from an adult somatic cell?

QUESTION 6

Name the online giant, initially supposed to be 'Cadabara' and 'Relentless', which was founded on July 5?

Visual question:
This is the currency of which South American country that celebrates its Independence Day on July 5. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The reason why the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia rings 13 times every July 4. **Ans: As an honour to the 13 original States**

2. The distinction Edward Rutledge has among the 56 signatories. **Ans: At 26, he was the youngest person to sign the Declaration of Independence**

3. The English monarch who ruled the colonies when independence was established and the European capital where the treaty was signed. **Ans: George III and Paris**

4. The department store that has sponsored the July 4 fireworks ever since 1976. **Ans: Macy's**

5. This engraving 'July IV MDCCLXXVI' can be seen here. **Ans: Statue of Liberty**

6. This person is said to have remarked after doing this: "The British ministry can read that name without spectacles; let them double their reward." **Ans: John Hancock when asked why he put a huge signature (the biggest on the document)**

7. The year in which July 4 was declared a national holiday in the U.S. **Ans: 1870**

Visual. Name this U.S. President. **Ans: Calvin Coolidge**

Early Birds: Ashraf Basha Yakub| Tamal Biswas| Md Sarfaraj Nawab| Jyot Prakash| M. Suresh Kumar

Word of the day

Imperative:
a mood that expresses an intention to influence the listener's behaviour; some duty that is essential and urgent; requiring attention or action

Synonym: important

Usage: *It was imperative that he act as naturally as possible.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/imperativepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪmˈpɛɹ.ə.tɪv/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Over 500 booked for not wearing helmet

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The West division traffic police on Wednesday launched a drive and booked 511 two-wheeler riders who were not wearing helmet.

The 511 cases are among the 851 booked against motorists violating rules and also endangering the safety of others, Anitha B. Haddannavar, DCP, Traffic, West division, said.

The other violations include riding against one way (55), wrong parking (69), footpath riding (9), using mobile phones while riding (7), and triple riding (10).

Meanwhile, the East division traffic police have booked 100 cases against vehicle owners for using high-beam headlights. The police also booked 170 cases against erring autorickshaw drivers for refusing to go on hire, demanding excess fare among others.

Lokayukta special court convicts Bescom AEE in DA case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta special court has convicted an assistant executive engineer (AEE) of Bescom in a disproportionate assets (DA) case and sentenced him to three years of rigorous imprisonment with a fine of ₹1 crore.

The Lokayukta had registered a case against C. Ramalingaiah under the Prevention of Corruption Act in September 2011 on the charges of possessing disproportionate assets.

Raid

A team of officials, led by the then Deputy Superintendent of Police Abdul Ahad, conducted an investigation and raided his office and residential premises and found that Ramalingaiah had total assets worth over ₹1.03 crore, which were 44.6% more than his known source of income, and filed a detailed chargesheet against the accused.

The judge, K.M. Radhakrishna, also ordered Ramalingaiah to undergo four months of simple imprisonment if he fails to pay the fine amount.

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General Administration Wing, Head Office,
Dwarakanath Bhavan, No.29, K R Road, Basavanagudi,
Bengaluru-560 004. Ph: 26621873 / 74.
Email – hoepc@canarabank.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CANARA BANK INVITES OFFER FOR SELECTION OF ARCHITECT FOR FAÇADE RENOVATION OF CANARA BANK, HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, NO: 112, J C ROAD, BENGALURU - 560002.

The tender can be downloaded from Canara Bank's web site, **https://canarabank.com/tenders** & Central Public Procurement (CPP) portal **www.eprocure.gov.in** as well as from e-Procurement portal **www.gerpegov.com/CANARABANK**
Last date for online submission of tender : **02.08.2024 3:00 PM**
All addendum/corrigendum including modifications if any shall be published in the website only.
Place: Bengaluru
Date: 05.07.2024 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager**

INFORMATION WANTED

This is the photograph of **Shamima Khatoon**, Daughter of **MD Mainuddin @ Maizuddin,** of 39/H/10, Ekbalpur Lane Kolkata-23, was found missing since on & before 29.03.23 from Sarkar Bagan,PO-Andul Mouri, PS-Sankrail, Howrah. Description Rolls of the Missing Subject: **Age**-24 years, **Height**-5 , **Complexion**-Fair, **Built**-Medium. Please inform whereabouts of the missing person, or contact to the Officer-In-Charge, Missing Person Squad, Detective Department, Lalbazar, Kolkata. (Contact No-9674987289/9051203555).
ICA- D1130(2)/2024

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EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

St Joseph's University, Bengaluru organised Summer School programme on Drug Discovery and Development.

In collaboration with Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences and the Royal Society of Chemistry, St. Joseph's University organized a two-week summer programme on 'Drug Discovery & Development' curated by Prof. Swetavalli Raghavan, Head of Innovation, Strategy & Government Affairs at the Royal Society of Chemistry to provide students a holistic understanding of the industry and skill them to build exciting careers in drug discovery and development, thus contributing affordable innovations to improve human health. The Department of Chemistry, School of Chemical Sciences, coordinated the 2024 programme. It offered students intensive and interactive sessions covering a range of topics, including genomics and proteomics drug development and delivery, preclinical and clinical trials, good laboratory practice, pharmacoeconomics and the regulatory framework related to drug discovery. The two-week programme helped students acquire essential employability skills, network with potential employers, and learn from industry researchers in the field of drug discovery and development. This summer school provided students with the understanding and knowledge needed to bridge the gap between academia and industry. The inaugural batch of the Drug Discovery and Development Summer School graduated with enhanced preparedness to shape their careers in this field. Rev Dr. Victor Lobo SJ, Vice Chancellor and Fr Denzil Lobo SJ, Director, the School of Information Technology were present for the valedictory programme.

Christ Junior College organized by the department of English, the theme 'Seeds of Change'

CHRIST
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH IS HONOURED TO HOST
Seeds of Change
A talk with renowned environmentalist Dr. Vandana Shiva
3 July 2024

Christ Junior College was graced by Dr. Vandava Shiva- an environmental activist, ecofeminist and author, while the country celebrated Van Mahotsav. The occasion began with a meaningful tree planting ceremony led by Dr. Shiva in the Dharmaram Ground of the campus. Dr. Shiva, along with the principal Dr. Fr. Sebastian Mathai and two student representatives planted the Frangipani plant, known for its beautiful flowers, symbolizing the college's commitment to sustainable practices and biodiversity conservation. She was then enthusiastically welcomed by the student body of Christ Junior College as the chief guest for the General Assembly. Dr. Shiva's address emphasized the interconnectedness of humanity and Earth, drawing a thought-provoking parallel between the words "human" and "humanus," signifying our belonging to the planet. Her powerful words left a lasting impression on students and faculty alike. An intercollegiate interactive session with Dr. Shiva was also conducted by the department of English in the main auditorium of the Christ (Deemed to be University)'s central campus. Students and teachers from around 25 colleges in Bengaluru attended the interactive session, and posed questions on various topics. The session concluded with a gesture of appreciation extended to Dr. Shiva and a heartfelt photo session capturing moments of camaraderie between students, faculty, and our esteemed guest. Dr. Shiva departed at noon, leaving an indelible impression with her poignant reminder: "The Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the Earth."

The Krupanidhi Group of Institutions and Bengaluru City Police's Push on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The Krupanidhi Group of Institutions arranged a consequential event in cooperation with the Bengaluru Police Whitefield Division and Marathalli Subdivision to increase public awareness of the risks associated with illicit trafficking and the significance of a drug-free world. The distinguished guests' DCP Whitefield Division, Dr Shivakumar IPS, ACP Marathalli Subdivision Smt. Priyadarshini Iswar Sanikop, KSPS, and Inspector Shri Yoganand Sonar of Varthur Police Station graced the occasion to raise community awareness of pivotal problems of drug misuse and trafficking. The students of the KGI conducted an ebullient walkathon, representing our shared commitment to a drug-free society. Sketching and Rangoli competitions were held to further the event's momentum. Students showcased their artistic abilities while delivering important messages about the perils of drug usage and the effects of illicit trafficking. These competitions showcased provocative artworks that portrayed the optimism for rehabilitation and a future free of drugs and the harsh reality of drug addiction. Dr. Shivakumar IPS and Smt. Priyadarshini Iswar Sanikop KSPS all stressed in their speeches the importance of community involvement and awareness in the fight against drug abuse. The pinnacle of the event was the series of dance and skit performances by KGI students. Bengaluru Police and the KGI showed their unwavering commitment to building a safer, healthier, and better-informed society through this effort.

Doctors Day, walkathon 2.0 event was organized by RajaRajeswari Medical College and Hospital (RRMCH)

The theme of the walkathon event was " Cardiac Care " for healthy heart. The walkathon 2.0 event organized by RajaRajeswari Medical College and Hospital was inaguarated by the former National cricket player and current commentator Mr. Vijay Bharadwaj. Speaking on the ocassion, he appreciated the noble initiative taken by the doctors to create social awareness about cardiac care. Starting at 9:30 a.m. from Jnanabharathi Metro Station to Kengeri Satellite Metro Station. Over 1000 participants, including faculty and staff, marched with great enthusiasm to raise awareness about Cardiac Care and emphasising the importance of Healthy Heart. The event was well attended by the Executive Director, Dr. S. Viajayanand, Dean, Dr. Sathyamurthy, Principal, Dr. Naveen , Medical Superintendent, Dr. Praveen Kumar, HoDs and other staffs.

बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ

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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, BBMP Head office,
NR Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/3320/2024-25 **Dated: 04/07/2024**

NOTIFICATION

FORM-I {Under Sec 14B(4)(i)}

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B (4) of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961 the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by The CHIEF COMMISSIONER, BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE for Widening of Blessing Garden Main Road From Hennur-Bagaluru Road To Byrathi via Geddalahalli **(Existing road Widening to 24.00m width)**. It is hereby informed to the land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose, to appear and submit their claims along with the copies of the relevant documents viz, (i) Sale /Partition / other deeds of title, (ii) Up-to-date RTC's (iii) Mutation Copy (iv) Tax paid receipts (V) conversion order of Non agriculture purpose (vi) Revenue sketch (vii) Akar band etc., in person in the place within thirty days from the date of publication of this notification as indicated in the address below and state their respective interest in such land.

The place where land owners / interested persons have to appear and submit their claims	Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices	Date and Time
The Deputy Commissioner(LAQ & TDR) Room No: 208, 2st Floor, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.	Executive Engineer Road Infrastructure Mahadevapura Division, BBMP	30 days from the date of Notification. Time : 10.00 A.M to 5.00 P.M

The land owners / interested parties of the scheduled properties whose lands are to be acquired shall give the consent for Grant of Development Rights to the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike.

The land owners shall receive twice the area of land surrendered in lieu of monetary compensation as DR (Notional land) and two time the building area surrendered as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered divided by the Market value of the land on which the building is constructed. The Notional land can be utilized by factorizing with the market value at the originating plot and receiving plot. The Notional land is eligible for FAR and can be used as additional built up area at the receiving plot as per the terms and conditions prescribed in the Benefit of Development Rights Rules, 2016.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Rights Certificates (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition Officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (LAQ & TDR), BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

SCHEDULE

"Acquisition of land required for **Widening of Blessing Garden Main Road From Hennur-Bagaluru Road To Byrathi via Geddalahalli (Existing road Widening to 24.00m width).**

Name of the District: Bangalore Urban | Name of the Taluk: Bangalore East | Name of the Village: Geddalahalli

Sl No	Sy No/ Khatha No	Type of Land	Nature of Land			Dimension of the land / plot and extent in sq.m		Boundaries of the land / plot				Building Details			Present activity on Land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment individual house etc.,	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sqm*			Name and address of the owner of the plot/land for which DRC is to be issued / already issued.
		Vacant / Built up	Agriculture	Converted Undeveloped	Approved layout / developed land Building Site	Dimension	Extent	North	South	East	West	Extent in Sqm	Type of Construction and No. of Floors	Floor area Ratio		Agriculture/ B-Khatha	Converted Undeveloped	Developed Site	
1.	Sy No.38	Vacant/ Building	-			410.33		Remaining Portion of Sy No. 38	Existing Road	Sy No.39	New Airport Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Commissioner, BBMP Vide:LF/DRC No. 57/001901 Dt: 12.12.2011 & 101/003021 Dt: 18.07.2014 **J.Gabriyal**
2.	Sy No.41/3	Vacant	-			245.2		Existing Road & Sy No.38	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 41/3	Byrathi Village Boundary	New Airport Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Commissioner, BBMP Vide: LF/ DRC No.49/001715 Dt: 15.09.2015 **Manohar Laal and Asha**
3.	Sy No.39	Vacant/Building	-			528.36		Remaining Portion of Sy No. 39	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 39	Byrathi Village Boundary	Sy No.38	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Government Property

Name of the District: Bangalore Urban | Name of the Taluk: Bangalore East | Name of the Village: Byrathi

4.	Sy No.40	Vacant	-			82.77		Remaining Portion of Sy No. 40	Remaining Portion of Sy No.40	Nala	Sy No.39	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Government Property
5.	Sy No.88	Vacant	-			388.98		Existing Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No. 88	Sy No.87	Sy No.40	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	K.Gopalaraju and K.Nagaraju
6.	Sy No.89	Vacant/ Building	-			2978.07		Remaining Portion of Sy No. 89	Existing Road, Sy No.87, 88&84	Sy No.80	Nala	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Commissioner, BBMP Vide:LF/DRC No. 101/003020 Dt: 18.07.2014 & 89/002724 Dt:30.01.2015 **Anthonappa and Others**
7.	Sy No.87	Vacant	-			1005.32		Existing Road & Sy No.84	Remaining Portion of Sy No.87	Sy No.84	Sy No.88	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	K.Gopalaraju and K.Nagaraju
8.	Sy No.84	Vacant	-			477.19		Existing Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.84	Sy No.83/1	Sy No.87	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Sarasa and others
9.	Sy No.83/1	Vacant	-			188.00		Existing Road & Sy No.89	Remaining Portion of Sy No.83/1	Sy No.83/2	Sy No.84	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Abhe Thamas
10	Sy No.83/2	Vacant	-			631.38		Sy No.89	Remaining Portion of Sy No.83/2	Sy No.82/14	Sy No.83/1	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	NAK
11	Sy No.82/14	Vacant	-			89.22		Existing Road & Sy No.89	Remaining Portion of Sy No.82/14	Sy No.82/13	Sy No.83/2	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	NAK
12	Sy No.82/13	Vacant	-			43.32		Existing Road & Sy No.89	Remaining Portion of Sy No.82/13	Sy No.82/15	Sy No.82/14	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Sri Josh pal Vithjayathil represented by G.P.A holder Joseph Vijayathil
13	Sy No.82/15	Vacant	-			253.89		Existing Road & Sy No.89	Remaining Portion of Sy No.82/15	Sy No.82/3	Sy No.82/13	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Filip Paal Vithayathil
14	Sy No.82/3	Vacant	-			66.28		Sy No.81	Remaining Portion of Sy No.82/3	Sy No.82/8	Sy No.82/15	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	NAK
15	Sy No.81	Vacant	-			257.44		Sy No.82/3	Sy No.82/3	Remaining Portion of Sy No.81	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Government Property

Name of the District: Bangalore Urban | Name of the Taluk: Bangalore East | Name of the Village: Byrathi

16	Sy No.80/2	Vacant/ Building	-			276.67		Sy No.80/1	Sy No.89	Existing Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.80/2	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Anthappa and Others
17	Sy No.82/8	Vacant/ Building	-			27.90		Sy No.82/7	Sy No.82/3	Remaining Portion of Sy No.82/8	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Shinappa S/o Govindappa
18	Sy No.82/7	Vacant/ Building	-			44.60		Sy No.82/6	Sy No.82/8	Remaining Portion of Sy No.82/7	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Commissioner, BBMP Vide: LF/ DRC No.111/003261 Dt: 05.03.2014 **Sushilamma and Ravikumara**
19	Sy No.82/6	Vacant/ Building	-			45.16		Sy No.82/5	Sy No.82/7	Remaining Portion of Sy No.82/6	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Commissioner, BBMP Vide: LF/ DRC No.111/003262 Dt: 05.03.2014 **Shinappa S/o Govindappa**
20	Sy No.80/1	Vacant/ Building	-			65.10		Sy No.75/4	Sy No.80/2	Existing Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.80/1	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Filomina and Others
21	Sy No.82/4	Vacant/ Building	-			48.81		Sy No.74/3	Sy No.82/5	Remaining Portion of Sy No.82/4	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Sushilamma and Ravikumara
22	Sy No.74/3	Vacant/ Building	-			13.40		Sy No.74/3	Sy No.82/4	Remaining Portion of Sy No.74/3	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Commissioner, BBMP Vide: LF/ DRC No.88/002678 Dt: 11.09.2013 Chandrappa S/o Late.Basappa
23	Sy No.75/4	Vacant	-			226.00		Sy No.75/3	Sy No.80/1	Existing Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.75/4	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Munishamappa S/o Chikkaramaiah
24	Sy No.73/1	Vacant	-			18.37		Sy No.43/9	Sy No.74/2	Remaining Portion of Sy No.73/1	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	B.N Jayaram and Others
25	Sy No.75/3	Vacant/ Building	-			365.26		Sy No.42/2	Sy No.75/4	Existing Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.75/3	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Commissioner, BBMP Vide: LF/ DRC No.112/003283 Dt: 06.08.2014 Chinnappa and Balaraj
26	Sy No.43/9	Vacant/ Building	-			94.25		Sy No.43/8	Sy No.73/1	Remaining Portion of Sy No.43/9	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Jagadhish S/o Shankarappa
27	Sy No.43/8	Vacant/ Building	-			147.00		Sy No.42/2	Sy No.43/9	Remaining Portion of Sy No.43/8	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Shankaranarayana S/o Shankarappa
28	Sy No.42/2	Vacant	-			571.97		Sy No.42/1	Sy No.75/3 & Sy No.43/8	Remaining Portion of Sy No.42/2	Remaining Portion of Sy No.42/2	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	B.S Jayaram and Others
29	Sy No.42/1	Vacant	-			870.68		Sy No.39/4 & Sy No.42/3	Sy No.42/2	Remaining Portion of Sy No.42/1	Remaining Portion of Sy No.42/1	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	B.S Jayaram and Others
30	Sy No.42/3	Vacant	-			165.65		Sy No.39/2	Sy No.42/1	Existing Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.42/3	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	B.S Jayaram and Others
31	Sy No.39/4	Vacant	-			132.74		Sy No.39/3	Sy No.42/1	Remaining Portion of Sy No.39/4	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Ramaiah S/o Muniyappa
32	Sy No.39/3	Vacant	-			85.12		Sy No.39/5	Sy No.39/4	Remaining Portion of Sy No.39/3	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Commissioner, BBMP Vide: LF/ DRC No. 99/002975 Dt: 23.09.2014 Rama W/o Late.Manjunatha
33	Sy No.39/2	Vacant/ Building	-			97.97		Sy No.37	Sy No.42/3	Existing Road	Remaining Portion of Sy No.39/2 & Sy No.39/1	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Chikkavenkatappa, Govindappa
34	Sy No.39/5	Vacant/ Building	-			103.10		Sy No.37	Sy No.39/3	Sy No.37 & Remaining Portion of Sy No.39/5	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Ramaiah S/o Giddaga
35	Sy No.39/1	Vacant/ Building	-			26.40		Sy No.37	Sy No.42/3	Sy No.39/2	Remaining Portion of Sy No.39/1	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Ramaiah S/o Muniyappa
36	Sy No.37	Vacant/ Building	-			155.16		Bilishivale Road	Sy No.39/5 & Sy No.38	Remaining Portion of Sy No.37	Existing Road	-	-	-	-	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	To be decided by Government	Government Property

Note: **The Market value of Land shall be subject to land conversion and development status to be decided at Form-III stage based on production of documents from the Land Owners.**

·The Building extent shall be verified at the time of Form-III Public Notice stage based on the Building Valuation and Benefits of Development Rights Rules, 2016.

Sd/- **Chief Commissioner**
Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike

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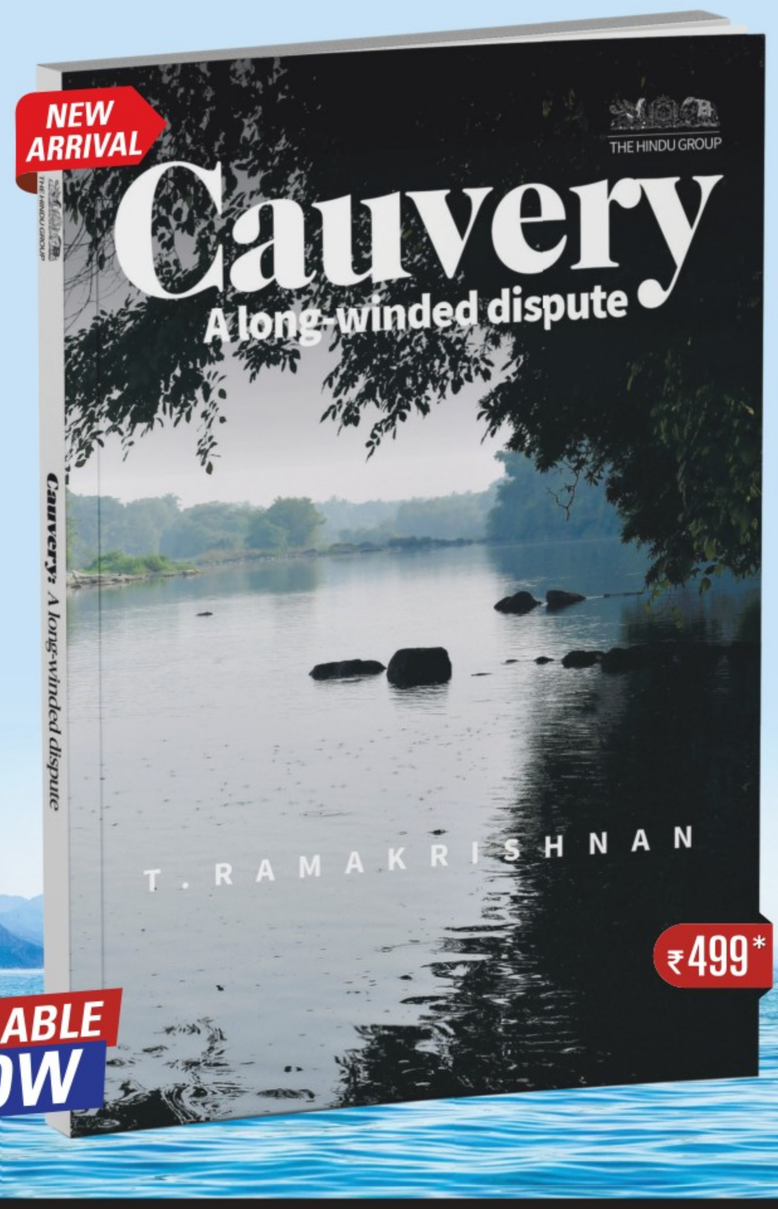

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE No. B/TRD.2024-25/10 Dt: 28.06.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the work	Approx. value
OHE modifications for improving the profile and reliability of OHE due to slewing and raising of SE in curves in Mysuru-Bengaluru & Bengaluru-Dharmavaram.	Rs. 70,52,383.84/-

Last date of submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 19-07-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD
Bengaluru

PUB/222/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu Ph : 04324-277001 (10 Lines)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material / Work Description	Issue Date	Due Date
242513 001775	Wheel Mounted front end 'z' bar type Loader (pay load of 3.0 tons) TNPL will follow Two Bid system and E-Tender cum Auction.	–	22.07.2024
242513 001964	Project Consultancy Services for the proposed Revamping of Steam and Power System (RSPS#2) at TNPL Unit-I	08.07.2024	29.07.2024
242513 001937	Procurement of Hydrogen Peroxide 50% for Unit-I and Unit-II.	–	18.07.2024
242513 001959	Oxygen Molecular Sieves	–	22.07.2024
E-mail	242513001775 - **purchase.auto@tnpl.co.in** 242513001964 - **pmd4@tnpl.co.in** 242513001937 - **purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in** 242513001959 - **purchase.genl@tnpl.co.in**		

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: **www.tnpl.com/www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/ 2180 /TENDER/2024
TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly paper

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE (Through E-Tendering)

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Tender No.	Description of work	Approx. Value
BE-TLAC-RMPU-CMC-24-27-2	Centralized Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of RMPU and its control Panel of AC coaches (Conventional and LHB type) at Bengaluru, Hubballi & Mysuru divisions and POH/SS-2/SS-3 of AC coaches at Hubballi & Mysuru Workshops over South Western Railway and escorting of AC coaches of the primary trains at Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal Bengaluru and special trains across Bengaluru divison for two years.	₹41,80,15,130.43
Last Date for submission of bids: **upto 15:00 hrs. on 19.07.2024**		
BE-29-2024-25-OT-09	Zonal Contract for electrical works under SSE/P/PRS/SBC (KSR Bengaluru) jurisdiction	₹30,51,712/-
BE-29-2024-25-OT-10	Zonal Contract for electrical works under SSE/P/BWT (Bangarapet) jurisdiction	₹30,62,914/-
Last Date for submission of bids: **upto 15:00 hrs. on 24.07.2024**		

For Details Log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
Bengaluru

PUB/231/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE NO.: 29/2024 Dated: 28.06.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in brief	Qty.
1.	L8246000	Uninsulated Cadmium Copper Catenary Wire (19/2.10mm) 65 sqmm	21000 Mtrs.
2.	L8245892	Integrated Power Supply (IPS)	08 Set
3.	L8246001	5mm Round Copper Dropper Wire Spec: IS_282, STR: Corestr-03	3025 kg
Last Date for submission of bids: **upto 10:30 a.m. on 22.07.2024**			
4.	L8245977	5 watt VHF Digital Walkie talkie Set	380 Nos.
Last Date for submission of bids: **upto 10:30 a.m. on 20.07.2024**			

For Details Log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/217/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru

South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | southwesternrailway | SWRRLY

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್ ಸಿಟಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಎಸ್.ಬಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬಾರ್‌ಫ್ಲಾಗ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು - 575003, ದ.ಕ.

ಮ.ಸ್ಮಾ.ಸಿ.ಲಿ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಟೆಂಡರ್- 149/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.07.2024

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಂ ಇ-ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಒಡೆತನಕ್ಕೊಳಪಟ್ಟ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಸಿಟಿಯಿಂದ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಂಡ ಕದ್ರಿ ಸರ್ಕ್ಯೂಟ್ ಹೌಸ್ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್‌ನಿಂದ ಪದುವ ಹೈಸ್ಕೂಲ್ ಜಂಕ್ಷನ್‌ವರೆಗಿನ ಕದ್ರಿ ಉದ್ಯಾನವನ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪೂರ್ವ ಪ್ಲಾಜಾ, ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಪ್ಲಾಜಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಧ್ಯ ಪ್ಲಾಜಾಗಳ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಾಲನೆಯನ್ನು ರೆವೆನ್ಯು ಮಾದರಿಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಸಿಟಿಗೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿಗದಿತ ತೇರ್ಪಡೆ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕಂ ಇ-ಹರಾಜು ಮೂಲಕ ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರೆಂದು ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅದರಂತೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: MSCL/2024-25/SE0003 ಆಸಕ್ತ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ, ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಿಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ RFP ಮತ್ತು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ದುಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.07.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು.

ಆಸಕ್ತ ಬಿಡ್ದುದಾರರ ಪೂರ್ವಬಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.07.2024 ರಂದು ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ಸಿಟಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್
ಮಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR / MNG / 204/ MPL / 24-25

Union Bank of India
Regional Office, Bengaluru North
No. 1/1, Ground Floor, "Jeevan Sampige", 2nd Main, Sampige Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560003
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The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 05.07.2024

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Miner Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari

IFT No. EE/MI & GWDD/Bly/AE-1/2024-25/489
Date :02.07.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-2)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of under **Head of Account** 2245-08-101-0-01-059 SDMF work in Vijayanagar Dist., Various Taluk **02** Works in **Two Cover System Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.49.49 lakhs (Including GST),** the tenderers should download and submitt the tenders from **date : 03.07.2024 to 10.07.2024 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 12.07.2024 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 15.07.2024 at 11.00 hours**. Any other information should get by login the website **"KPPP"** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.I.&G.W.D.Division, Ballari.

DIPR/Ballari/198/KSMCA/2024-25

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ,
ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ. ತಾ:ಬ.ಬಾಗೇವಾಡಿ, ಜಿ:ವಿಜಯಪುರ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ:08426–281027.ಇಮೇಲ್:dam_division@rediffmail.com

ಸಂ:ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ/ಆವಿ/ಡಿಬಿ/ಮುನ್ಸೂಚನೆ/2024–25/1041 ದಿನಾಂಕ:04.07.2024

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ನದಿ ಪಾತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಕವಾಗಿ ಮುಂಗಾರು ಮಳೆಯು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ ಜಲಾಶಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳ ಹರಿವಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಹೆಚ್ಚಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಪ್ರವಾಹದ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ನಿಗಾ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದ್ದು, ಜಲಾಶಯಕ್ಕೆ ಹರಿದು ಬರುವ ನೀರಿನ ಪ್ರಮಾಣಕ್ಕನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಜಲಾಶಯದಿಂದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀರನ್ನು ಹೊರಗೆ ಬಿಡಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟಿನ ಕೆಳಭಾಗದ ಪ್ರದೇಶಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಳುಗಡೆಯಾಗಲಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳ ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಗಳ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ತಮ್ಮ ಜನ-ಜಾನುವಾರು ಹಾಗೂ ಆಸ್ತಿ-ಪಾಸ್ತಿ ವಗೈರೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಸ್ಥಳಾಂತರ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಮುನ್ಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಳಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ನದಿಯ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಹಳ್ಳಿಗಳ ಜನರೂ ಸಹ ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ಇರಬೇಕೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ವಿನಂತಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಮುಂದುವರೆದು, ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟಿಯ ಮೇಲ್ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಯ ಪ್ರವಾಹದಿಂದ ಬಾಧಿತಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ಜನರು ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಸ್ಥಳಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರಳಲು ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತವು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಲ್ಲಿ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ ಜಲಾಶಯದ ಪ್ರವಾಹದ ನಿಗಾ ವಹಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿ(ನಿ), ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.2, ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಶ್ರೀ ರವಿ ಚಂದ್ರಗಿರಿವರ ವಾಚಿಪ್ಪ, ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಇವರ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂ:9480450297 ಹಾಗು ಶ್ರೀ ಕುಮಾರೇಶ ಹಂಚಿನಾಳ, ಸಹಾಯಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರ್, ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂ:9986788799 ಇವರನ್ನು ನಿಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸದರಿಯವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ತಿಳಿದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ಶರಣಪ್ಪ. ಎಸ್. ಚಲವಾದಿ) ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/78/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

National Urban Health Mission
Bengaluru City Health & Family Welfare Society ®
BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Health Officers (PH), Annex Building-2, BBMP Head Office, N R Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No:CPMO/NUHM/PR/150/23-24/2024-25 Date: 03.07.2024

NOTIFICATION

The Walk-In process was implemented from 13.02.2024 to 15.02.2024 to fill the vacant posts for 01 year on outsource/contract basis, the paper notification was published on 08.02.2024 under National Urban Health Mission, NLEP, NTEP, DMHP, NUHM, NPCB & RCH Programmes. In accordance with the above notification, the list of candidates selected under Merit cum Roaster is published. According to the said notification, if any queries in the temporary selection list are invited from General Public before 07 Government working days and the notification was published on 20.06.2024. After review of all the objections the final selection list is published in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Website **(https://bbmp.gov.in).**

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (PH)
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಗಂಗಾವತಿ
ತಾಲೂಕುಗಂಗಾವತಿ-583227, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ
ರಾಜ್ಯಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08533-230243
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.gagavathicity.mrc.gov.in ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ಐ.ಡಿ: itstaff_ulb_gangavati@yahoo.com

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
GANGAVATHI. Tq: Gangavathi 83227, Dist:Koppal, St: Karnataka

ಸಂ: CMCG/TS/Tender/Legacy waste/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.07.2024

Short Term Tender Notification
(As per Standard Tender Procurement Bid Document KW-4)

As per KTPP 2000 Act by the Order and in the name of Governor, Karnataka State Tenders are invite under Swachha Bharat Mission 2.0 Scheme for various Work, Eligible registered bidders are requested to bid in Two Cover System via **Karnataka Procurement Portal** Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/on/or before the date mentioned as under through Karnataka Public Procurement portal only. Manual application will not be accepted.

Further details contact under signed office at Working hours.

1.	Tender Schedule Download Date from	From 3.7.2024 to 20.7.2024 at 05.30PM
2.	Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening	22.7.2024 at 11.00AM
3.	Date & Time of Pre Bid Meeting	10.7.2024 at 11.00 AM
4.	Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening	24.7.2023 at 11.00 AM or After days
5.	Application Fee (Non-Refundable)	As per Karnataka Procurement Portal

In case of the Date of Bid Opening happens to be holiday because of any Special Circumstances/Govt. holiday. The Next Date is considered as Date of Opening.

Sl.No.	Works Details	Estimated Cost (In Rupees)	EMD(In Rupees)	Working Period
1.	DMA/2023-24/OW/ WORK_INDENT462/CALL-3	3,00,82,031.49	4,51,230	7.17 Months

Note: Any changes in Calendar of events will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Conditions:
1. Strictly Follow the Conditions as per Tender Document.
2. If the Tenderer Who Submit their financial amount less than estimated Cost then he should submit the less DD of the difference amount (Mandatory)
3. The Sole Decision of Tender Acceptance & Rejection Authority of Muncipal Commissioner CMC Gangavathi.

Sd/-
Municipal Commissioner
CMC Gangavathi

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer,PRE Division
Jawahar Road Koppal 583231 ,Karnataka .
Email: eepredkpl@gmail.com,

No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL:/DB/TENDER/2024-25 /639
Date: 03.07.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through kppp one / two cover systems, Standard Bid Document **KW-1,2,3 & 4** under head of account 2023-24 KKRDB, different talukas of Koppal district PWD and PRE Department from eligible registered contractors . This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into kppp portal. **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.**

General instructions :- 1.Contractors participate in all tenders online only. 2.Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only. 3.Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal.

For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.** This notified works can be downloaded in **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal from dated **08.07.2024.**

Tender Processing Fees **As per E-Procurement**
Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal **From 08.07.2024 time after 10.00 AM upto 18.07.2024 time 16.00 Hours.**
Tender Receipt last dates **From 08.07.2024 ,time 11.00 AM upto 08.07.2024 Time 16.30 hrs**
Technical Bid open date and time (Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 works) **19.07.2024 in office hours.**
Financial Bid open date and time **For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened**

Sd/-Executive Engineer, PRE Division Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/119/KSMCA/2024-25

Faceless perpetrators make online space unsafe for women

Operating in the online shadow of anonymity, miscreants harass women by sending obscene messages and images. **Jahnavi T.R.** speaks to women active on social media who have been at the receiving end of illegal and traumatising activity. Women with public profiles or who are celebrities say they are easy targets

The murder of a fan of Kannada actor Darshan has sent shock waves across not just Karnataka but elsewhere as well. But the spotlight on the actor's role in the crime has the focus away from where it all began: the victim, Renukaswamy, was sending obscene messages on social media to Pavithra Gowda, Darshan's alleged partner, which triggered an act of revenge that went terribly wrong.

Working under the alias of Goutham K.S., Renukaswamy had sent obscene messages and photos of his private parts to Pavithra. Investigation revealed that he was a habitual offender and had sent similar pictures and messages to many women, especially social media influencers in the Kannada space.

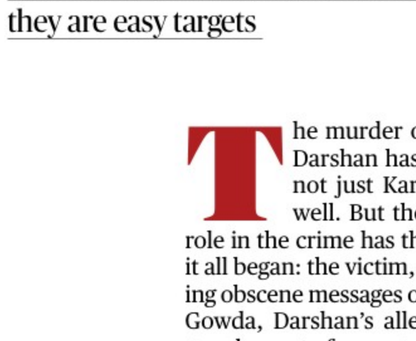
> It takes courage to bully someone face to face. In the virtual space, they can do it anonymously using fake accounts.
>
> **CHETANA THIRTHAHALLI**
> women's activist

Several similar cases

This case of harassment is not an isolated incident. Most women active on social media in Bengaluru say they have received inappropriate messages or obscene photos. It's worse when it comes to women who have a public profile or are celebrities.

According to Bengaluru City Police data, as many as 47 cases of online sexual abuse have been booked this year alone. Last year, it was 156, and in 2022, the number was 28.

As in the case with Pavithra, many such cases never reach the police since victims find the task of taking the legal route too daunting. Those who do, don't always get justice, given the myriad challenges such crimes pose to law enforcement agencies.



A 28-year-old Bengaluru resident was shaken upon learning that her pictures were being misused by someone who had created fake accounts on Instagram and Facebook. According to the First Information Report filed in the Central Cybercrime, Economic Offences, Narcotics (CEN) police station, the perpetrator had created two fake accounts on Instagram and two fake accounts on Facebook using the woman's pictures.

The culprit was sending posts to the public and friends of the complainant that for ₹100, they could make obscene video calls to her. A friend of hers noticed the post and made the payment to the specified number, only to be blocked by the perpetrator. This was then brought to the attention of the woman, which led her to complain to the cyber police. Investigation is underway in the case.

Advent of internet and smartphones

While reporting of online sexual harassment has increased now due to increased awareness, these cases go way back to the time of the advent of the internet and smartphones. Bhavana Belagere, a journalist and contestant on a popular reality show, received obscene messages for 20 days in a row on social media.

"Around six years ago, I started receiving nude photographs on Facebook from a man's account. He was also sending vulgar messages and asking me to send my nude pictures. I ignored him for 20 days, but it continued and even the frequency of messages increased. Then I complained to Subramanyapura police station," Bhavana said.

The police found the perpetrator, a man from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, who was using a fake account. "When they asked what steps I wanted to take, I told them to warn him and leave it at that. I know I could have blocked him (instead of going to the police), but I wanted to take some action, and hence, lodged the complaint," Bhavana added.

This complaint, however, did not put an end to such messages. "Even now, I get vulgar comments and thousands of dirty messages. Initially, it used to frustrate and irritate me, and I could not ignore it. But now, I have understood that everyone who is in the spotlight goes through these things."

Apart from obscene messages, trolling, vulgar comments and phone calls with an intent to abuse are among the different ways women are harassed in the digital space. What is alarming is there is no pattern or specific criteria for perpetrators to attack women in the virtual world. Surprisingly, even the women working in Namma 112, Bengaluru Police's emergency response service, are not spared.

A woman in her late 20s, who was among the phone operators who work in Namma 112 (police have outsourced the call centre to a private firm), said she gets at least two crank calls every day from men.

> The conviction rate in these cases is very low. As the data is all online, it can be deleted at any time.
>
> **MIRZA FAIZAN ASSAD**
> advocate

"From using abusive language to saying 'I love you' on the phone, the callers say all sorts of things. Some invite us to go for lunch with them. Some call just to listen to a woman's voice. In fact, male colleagues say some callers insist on speaking with women. We cannot permanently block them either, as we are an emergency response team," she said.

While urban women often brave such calls, those coming from rural backgrounds or socio-economically backward families are affected the most. "Sometimes, they start crying and are in a bad mood throughout the day," the woman said.

What leads to online harassment

In the Renukaswamy case, he was reportedly upset that Pavithra was causing what he felt was a rift in Darshan's marital life. In a few other cases, especially those involving social media influencers and public figures, harassment begins with moral policing. A woman posting photos with male friends, seen consuming alcohol, or sporting a bikini are easy targets for trolling and harassment.

"When society sees women, be it on any platform or field, there is a mentality to judge them and form opinions about their character. With social media, it has become even easier to gain access and moral-police women. As a society, we need to come out of the mindset that makes judgements about women's characters," said K.S. Vimala of All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA).

Elaborating on how access has become easier now, Chetana Thirthahalli, a women's activist, said, "Earlier, harassment used to take place in other spaces. But now, it has shifted to the online space. Earlier, men used to pull women's hair or resort to catcalls. But it takes courage to bully someone face to face. In the virtual space, they can do it anonymously using fake accounts. Easy accessibility is what has changed in recent years.

"I have been seeing cases of cyber harassment since 2010. Now, because more people have access to the internet and more people are using it, we are seeing more cases," says Thirthahalli, who helps women navigate the problem of cyber harassment. She advises women to report the crimes to the cybercrime police, especially if it begins to affect their daily lives. "The third thing would be to speak out and call them out by tagging their profiles. Even in cases where a woman might have responded to such messages in a weak moment, but it has turned into harassment, it is better to call them out instead of hiding it and suffering."

She stressed that such incidents should not lead to women losing their social space. "We do not have to stop posting photos or writing on social media. It is important to speak up, act, and claim our space. The support of parents and family members is essential in such instances."

Mental health professionals are seeing more women facing harassment online. Juhi Pandey, psychologist at the Mpower Helpline, said, "We get 15 to 20 calls every week on our helpline from all over the country from women who are mentally affected by online harassment."

Women who go through harassment often exhibit signs of guilt, shame, low self-esteem, anxiety, sleep disturbances, social isolation, and even self-harm. "Depending on the severity of their conditions, we decide if they need psychotherapy alone or medication with therapy," Pandey said.

On what drives people to harass others on social media, she said, "These are people who usually suffer from issues like sadism and narcissism, or have a history of substance abuse or have anger issues. Social media provides them an anonymous, non-confrontational space to express their desires."

Acknowledging that the number of reported cases is far fewer when compared to actual incidents of online sexual harassment, experts say this is because many women feel that cybercrimes are not taken seriously, even in dedicated police stations.

"It is safer to lodge complaints under criminal laws in law-and-order police stations rather than reporting them as cyber crimes. It is not the department's problem. It is a problem with the system where the concept that women can get harassed online is yet to sink in," Thirthahalli said.

While there were some expectations that there might be newer laws to deal with online harassment in the newly introduced Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, there have been no significant changes in this regard. "Online harassment continues to fall under cyber laws. The laws have not changed much. It is just that the language is slightly different," said Mirza Faizan Assad, advocate of Legal Tree Law Firm, which specialises in cyber laws.

"The conviction rate in these cases is very low. As the data is all online, it can be deleted at any time. By the time the police gain access to it, it might already be late. There is a delay in getting information from sites like Facebook or X," Mirza pointed out.

B. Dayananda, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru, said, "We have made it possible for citizens to lodge cybercrime complaints not just in cybercrime police stations, but also in law-and-order stations, and even online. We follow all protocols as laid out by the law and investigate the cases based on the FIRs."

As large as life Expect simplicity, beauty and reality at the upcoming AHA! theatre festival. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Spotlight on children

As the 14th edition of Ranga Shankara's children's theatre festival rolls around the corner, founder Arundhati Nag talks about why this art form is important for young minds

Yemen S
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Theatre has played a huge role in conveying complex topics to children for many years now and Ranga Shankara (RS), the popular theatre space in JP Nagar has been one of the key contributors to theatre for children in India. Back with their 14th edition of Aha! International Theatre for Children Festival 2024, Arundhati Nag, managing trustee and founder of RS, shares her thoughts on the importance of this art form for children.

Q: Tell us a little about this year's edition of the festival
A: This is the 14th edition of Aha! and RS is one of the few theatres in the country that has a sustained children's program. This festival is made specifically for children. In our country we have a one-size-fits-all approach to everything, but we need to understand that a two-year-old is different from a six-year-old.

Through Aha!, we want to make sure children watch age-specific plays from across the globe. We also have shows for schools where only children from a particular school will get to watch a play from Germany or South Korea or Austria designed especially for them. We want the festival to boost the theatre scene for children not only in Bengaluru, but also across the country.

Q: How does theatre help in the growth of a child?
A: Theatre is the only art form or medium that shows a child blood, sweat and tears, it depicts human beings just like themselves, not enlarged or shrunk unnaturally to fit on a cinema screen or an electronic device. In an auditorium watching a play, a child responds in real time. They say the heartbeat of the person on stage eventually begins to beat in sync with their audience, which is a collective reaction. Theatre is a reality check. A child learns voice modulation, how to be graceful, how to resolve problems, understand speech and a lot more. Parents must let their children engage in performing arts more often than they do.

Q: RS encourages theatre for children, while other theatre companies look at creating more theatre by children...
A: At RS, we believe children should be given an opportunity to engage in theatre, but we do not encourage making 'performing monkeys' out of them. Yes, a child must participate in a theatrical or a stage performance once a year, and the school annual day function is enough for that. But they must also watch plays, dance performances and go to concerts. Most organisations create productions such as *Beauty and the Beast*, unnatural fairy tales, mythical stories and the like which have no connection with reality. At RS, when we make theatre for children, we put ourselves in the position of the child and the world they are in.

Q: What has been RS' take away in these 14 years of AHA!?
A: Over the years we have understood that we need more people who buy into the idea that the maturity of a child changes every year. The way a child understands truth and untruth or something as radical as death is different at the ages of two, four, six, eight and even 40. There is a need for more people across the board to subscribe to the idea that we need to go deeper into the psychology and vocabulary of children.

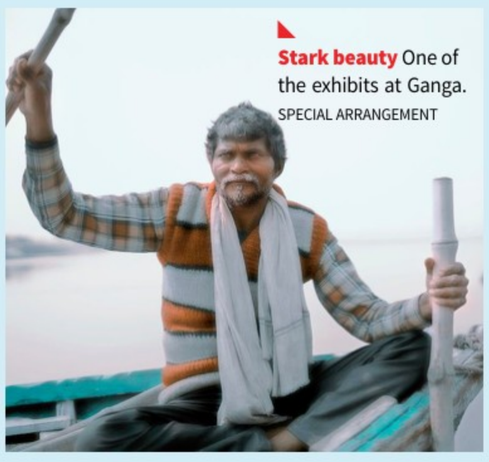
If we want the coming generation to grow up with good aesthetics, we need to make good art for them.

AHA! moments

The 14th edition of Ranga Shankara's Aha! International Theatre for Children Festival begins on July 13. Along with plays from around the world, one from India titled *Crabbby*, directed by S Surendranath and produced by Ranga Shankara, will also be presented.

For children between the ages of three and nine, themes range from environmental conservation, joy of companionship, dismantling gender stereotypes and nurturing empathy in conflicts. The festival will travel to Ahmedabad (July 18-20), in partnership with Neekoee Foundation.

Tickets for the Bengaluru shows are available at the Ranga Shankara box office and BookyMyShow. Details for the Ahmedabad shows are available on Ranga Shankara's social media handles.



Stark beauty One of the exhibits at Ganga. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Boatmen and the river

An exhibition featuring the works of artists Yusuf Arakkal and Shibu Arakkal is underway

The Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation presents Ganga, an art exhibition featuring the works of renowned artist Yusuf Arakkal and his son, Shibu Arakkal.

The Ganga River, revered as a source of spiritual solace and cultural unity in India, serves as the inspiration for this exhibition. Ganga explores the deep, philosophical connections that both artists have had with the river, presenting a unique blend of contrasting artistic mediums.

Yusuf's evocative canvas paintings delve into the complexities of human emotions, a hallmark of his illustrious career. His works in this exhibition continue to reflect his exploration of the human condition, rendered with textured, expressive brushstrokes.

In contrast, Shibu's photographic series, Mallaah, captures the lives of the Ganga's boatmen. These compelling images depict the Mallaah, who have dedicated their lives to ferrying people across the sacred river. The series portrays the boatmen's deep connection to the Ganga, illustrating their sociological complexity and the intimate bond they share with the river.

"The Mallaahs are the guardians of the rivers. Most of these boatmen were born on the river. They live most of their lives on it. And, it is likely that they die on it, too," Shibu told *The Hindu* in 2019, when his photo exhibiton was inaugurated.

The juxtaposition of Yusuf's expressive canvases and Shibu's stark photographic realism creates a compelling narrative, showcasing the intersection of their artistic legacies.

The exhibition is on display at the Foundation's premises at Maini Sadan on Lavelle Road and will run until July 10, from 10am to 6pm.

Exploring the heartland's cuisine

Dishes like Champaran mutton, Madras beach nethli fry and chuda ghughni feature on the menu of Jugni in Koramangala

Anagha Maareesha
anagha.maareesha@thehindu.co.in

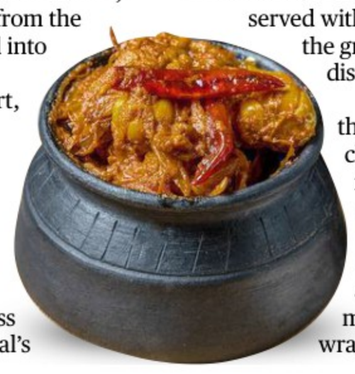
Understated delicacies Champaran mutton and Bhavnagar chilli are some must-haves at Jugni. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Indian" restaurants, especially ones serving North Indian cuisine usually restrict themselves to Punjabi or Lucknowi dishes. So it was a refreshing change to dine at Jugni in Bengaluru. Here, restaurateur Farheen Quadri has curated a menu that represents dishes from smaller towns and the heartland of the country. Located in Koramangala, Jugni borrows from Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Bengal and other states, and showcases both traditional recipes and street-style dishes.

The decor is what really catches my eye as I walk in for lunch. Handpicked by Farheen, the furniture at Jugni features a lot of rattan, cane and wood.

Indian textiles and weaves fill the space with vibrant colours.

For *chaat* lovers there is plenty to choose from. The *shakarkandi papdi* is a special dish eaten during Navratri. Sweet potato is fried in ghee and a variety of spices and topped with a *saunth* (dried ginger) chutney. Another must try is the avocado *mathri chaat*. *Mathri*, savoury crackers from the North, are shaped into cones, and filled with sweet yoghurt, avocado, boiled potato and the usual *chaat* accoutrements.



The small plates and bar nibbles take you on a journey across the country. Bengal's beetroot peanut chops reminded me of my childhood in East India where tea time was not complete without these deep fried cutlets. The *kasundi* it is served with cuts through the greasiness of the dish.

Next we have the Bhavnagar chilli, a specialty from the streets of Gujarat. The chilli peppers are stuffed with a potato mixture, wrapped in *nimki* and deep fried. This one is a little hot, so the pineapple salsa it is served with is welcome. The hunter style *gurda kaleji* is a spicy dish of liver and kidney. The rustic style preparation has hand pounded spices. I washed these down with a rum cha clarified cocktail, made of dark rum, milk, cinnamon and tea, which was not too memorable.

For mains, go for the slow cooked Champaran mutton. Hailing from Champaran in Bihar, this meat dish is cooked in an earthenware pot with unique flavours that come from mustard oil and garlic. Pair it with the hemp heart infused *parathas*, or soft *rumali rotis*. I end my meal with *elaneer payasam* – tender coconut's delicate texture makes this one a favourite.

A few of the fusion dishes, such as a *rasagulla chaat*, do not really hit the mark. What Jugni does best is classic and some lesser known Indian dishes.

Cost for two ₹1,600. Jugni is at 60 Feet Rd, 6th Block, Koramangala. For details call 8971263741

STEPOUT

Say Ole

Ouro dishes out classic European and Mexican cuisine and has launched a Sunday brunch menu. Called Loco Sundays, the range includes Mexican street food, music, cocktails and mocktails. Jackfruit tinga taco, spicy boom boom guacamole with corn chips, grilled lobster with chipotle butter, chicken paella are some of their signature dishes. *From July 7. Call 69349999 for details.*

Just for laughs

Samay, known for his quick wit, will be performing in the city this weekend. The comedian, who is a printing engineer and a chess enthusiast, rose to fame as the co-winner of the second season of a populat stand-up comedy contest. He has also performed with comedians such as Anirban Dasgupta and Abhishek Upmanyu.

At Fan Park, Phoenix Mall of Asia, July 6, at 4pm and 7pm. Tickets on BookMyShow

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Cabinet clears 'Law and Policy 2023' to expedite resolution of disputes and crack down on corruption

It seeks to hold public servants accountable for wrong information and deliberate negligence in discharge of duties

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday cleared "Law and Policy 2023: A Stride to Redress the Pledge" for expeditious resolution of disputes through courts, quasi-judicial bodies, and alternative dispute resolution systems, to crack down on corruption, and to provide good governance.

A Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah cleared the policy, which will hold public servants accountable for wrong estimates, wrong information, deliberate negligence in discharge of duties, and misleading the government and public. "No officer is authorised to do anything not sanctioned by the law. For such acts, the government will not be saddled with liability and the officer will be personally liable," the policy said.

Noting that "corruption in public office is cancerous", the policy aims to tackle corruption, take appropriate measures in the form of providing online services and file-tracking system, to reduce human interface between public and officials.

The Law Department headed by Minister H.K. Patil came out with the policy to establish *Vyajya Mukta Gramas* (litigation-free villages). Laws would be suitably amended for resolving the disputes using Alternative Dispute Resolution systems such as Lok Adalats, negotiation, mediation, conciliation and arbitration, both for cases pending in courts and at the pre-litigation stage.

It also envisaged creation of fast track courts to dispose of cases against the government wherein issues of pension and compensation are involved.

The 23-page policy document noted involvement of certain extra-constitutional and illegal outfits operating to resolve disputes between private individuals involving big money or prime properties in urban areas. "Efforts will be made to overcome this issue by introducing judicial reforms so that people will have recourse to lawful institutions for resolution of disputes than to extra-legal bodies," the policy said.

The new policy also envisages a massive literacy drive to achieve constitutional literacy and respect to human rights, and dignity. It said an authority would be set up to supervise the litigation between government and individuals/officials and suggest to the government how these litigations are to be handled at the respective department level to avoid unnecessary litigations against the government.

Besides adopting measures for implementing awards, judgments, and orders of the courts, it said "the government need not unnecessarily prefer an appeal when justice is done to a citizen".

It proposes to formulate laws in simple language and come out with publications, and ensure strict implementation of the law relating prevent sexual harassment in place of work.

Key features of the policy

- Establishing model courts wherever necessary
- Setting up Advocates' Academy to provide legal education in north Karnataka
- Establishment of 100 fast-track courts and special courts
- Establishment of courts in all new taluks
- Establishment of Directorate of Legal Education
- Appointment of advocates as temporary judges to dispose of petty cases
- Enactment of Administration of Justice Act
- Repeal of outdated laws
- Abolition of bodies/tribunals which are not serving any purpose
- Measures to make departments follow laws and rules
- Bringing all aided law colleges under the Department of Law/ Directorate of Legal Education
- Establishment of arbitration centres in all district headquarters
- Creation of Victim Ombudsman

BILLS TO BE INTRODUCED IN UPCOMING SESSION

- The Karnataka Administrative (Functioning) Bill
- The Karnataka Administration of Justice Bill
- The Advocates Protection Bill, Directorate of Legal Education Bill
- The Karnataka Housing (Guarantee and Regulation) Bill

Counselling system to be adopted for transfer of sub-registrars to curb corruption and lobbying

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move aimed at cracking down on corruption, influence/lobbying, and ensuring transparency in transfers, the Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to adopt a counselling system for transfer of sub-registrars, senior registration officers, and first division assistants of the Stamp and Registration Department.

Real estate business

As many of the sub-registrars have continued to hold postings for more than five years during the last eight years in Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, and Ramanagara districts that come under the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority and in 10 city corporations of the State, a Cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, decided to adopt counselling system for transfer of officials posted at sub-registrar offices in cities where there is more real estate business and registration of properties.

Of 257 sub-registrar offices in Karnataka, 51 are in Bengaluru Urban, and Rural, and Ramanagara districts.

Briefing on the Cabinet decisions, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil said that sub-registrars, senior registration officers, and first division assistants holding posting for more than four years during the last five years in 10 city corporations would also be shunted out through counselling system.

Similarly, the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department has decided to introduce counselling for transfer of senior PDOs, PDOs, gram panchayat secretaries, rural development assistants of Grade I and II, and second division clerks.

City projects

The Cabinet cleared ₹2,000 crore for projects under the Mahatma Gandhi Vikas Yojana to be implemented in 10 city corporations of the State for undertaking smart city projects.

It has appointed Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development & Finance Corporation as a nodal agency for implementing projects of the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation under the Comprehensive Environmental Plan for Mining Impact Zone.

The projects are for development of infrastructure in four mining-affected districts of Ballari, Vijayanagara, Chitradurga, and Tumakuru. A sum of ₹3,431.86 crore has been approved for four districts.

Among other decisions, the number of years of service required to promote Assistant Conservator of Forest to Deputy Conservator of Forest has been reduced from five to three years. The term of the 5th State Finance Commission was extended till February 2025.

It also approved ₹53.66 crore for setting up laboratories in Namma Clinics in urban areas, ₹30 crore for Karnataka Examinations Authority building, and ₹84.58 crore for providing kitchen items for Indira Canteens.

'There should be blend of local, global language in running govt. affairs'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that the choice of language to be used in governmental affairs is essentially a matter of policy, convenience, and practicality, the High Court of Karnataka has said that Kannada, being a local language in the State, has to be promoted and given importance, but that itself cannot be a reason for the court to positively direct the State government and its authorities to use Kannada language.

At the same time, the court said: "Wherever it is necessary, the use of English in addition to Kannada cannot be disbanded. The judicial pronouncements, the law reports, statute books, and important notifications and out-of-State or overseas correspondence with the State authorities are all in English."

"There should be a requisite blend of local and global language in running government affairs," observed a Division Bench, while dismissing a PIL petition, filed by one Gurunath Vadde of Kamalanagar taluk in Bidar district.

The petitioner had sought a direction to the State government and the Karnataka Lokayukta to use Kannada in day-today office work, orders, issuance of notices, endorsements, etc.

"Kannada language may be endeared, at the same time utility of English language should not be overlooked or discarded. English is an official language for use in the High Court under the Constitution. There can be no universal formula as to one language should only be used in governmental affairs," the Bench observed.

"At local levels, however, it is hoped that the government and the officers as far as possible, may use, promote, and give prominence to the local Kannada language to subserve the culture and the people of Karnataka," the Bench said.

BJP adopts aggressive posture by resolving to 'oust Congress govt.'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP Central leadership has put the party's Karnataka unit on a confrontationist path against the Congress government, with party national general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal on Thursday declaring that none of the party workers will rest till Chief Minister Siddaramaiah quits.

The BJP State executive held in Bengaluru adopted a resolution in this regard, giving a call to oust the Congress government, which it said had "failed to take up any development work and indulged in corruption". The resolution proposed by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok accused the Congress government of "pushing the State towards bankruptcy" by violating financial discipline and "forgetting public interest in an effort to appease minorities". Alleging that the law and order situation had deteriorated, the resolution demanded resignation of the Chief Minister.

BJP leaders at the party's State executive meeting in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

Addressing the State executive, Mr. Agarwal said though the Congress had come to power with a thumping majority with 136 MLAs in the 2023 Assembly elections, its popularity had declined within a year as the BJP had got lead in 142 Assembly seats in the Lok Sabha polls.

He said though the Congress government tried to woo people through guarantee schemes and various "false promises", people had voted against it as the NDA had got 51.66% votes in Karnataka as against 45% of Congress.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra ridiculed the guarantee schemes of Congress and said the government was "taking more from the pockets of people than it was giving them as guarantees". About 1,500 delegates, including Union Ministers, MPs, and legislators, took part in the day-long executive.

Meanwhile, the BJP core committee that met on Thursday night decided to hold constituency-wise introspection of Lok Sabha polls in Bengaluru on Friday and Saturday. It also decided that the party should effectively raise issues on alleged corruption in the forthcoming legislature session.

BSY dares CM to dissolve Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that the Congress government had lost its popularity within a year, veteran BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa on Thursday challenged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to dissolve the Assembly and seek fresh mandate "if he has courage". He said the BJP would bounce back by winning 140 to 150 seats in the 224-member Assembly if polls are held now.

MUDA must pay ₹62 cr. compensation for 'land encroachment': CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Opposition BJP continued to attack the ruling Congress over alleged land scam in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said a compensation of ₹62 crore for having "encroached" upon his family's land would have to be paid by MUDA if it is wrong to allocate alternative sites.

The land measuring 3.16 acres belonging to his wife was encroached upon and converted into sites and sold by MUDA, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, and demanded compensation of ₹62 crore, which is the market price of the land. "Our land was taken away. Should I let go of 3.16 acres because I am the Chief Minister?" he asked.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said that he had got "a raw deal" from MUDA. "I got 14 sites in lieu of 3.16 acres. While one acre has 44,000 sq.ft., I only got 38,264 sq. ft.," he said. MUDA has admitted that it had committed wrong by encroaching the land. "We should have got another 3.16 acres in a land-to-land deal," Mr. Siddaramaiah argued.

He reiterated that the lands were allotted to his wife in 2021 when BJP was in power. "Now, the BJP is crying foul saying it was illegal," he said. He said the BJP's allegations allocations were not based on facts, adding that they had not demanded alternative land in a specific location.

50:50 rule scrapped

Mr. Siddaramaiah said his government had, in fact, scrapped the 50:50 rule in October 2023, and demanded authorities pay him ₹62 crore in the form of compensation.

Meanwhile, in Mysuru, activists under the banner of Mysore Grahakara Parishat have decided to meet the Governor and urge him to write to the Chief Minister recommending a CBI probe into the overall "scam" related to land issues in MUDA.

HC directs govt. to digitise land records

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to digitise records of all types of lands granted to beneficiaries by the government, and proceedings and subsequent transactions related to such granted lands.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while noticing that litigation over alienation of a granted land in violation of the Protection of the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prohibition of Transfer of Certain Lands) Act, 1978, had been prolonged due to non-availability of records related to the grant and subsequent proceedings.

Applications submitted by the grantees, the orders of grant and their gazette publications, records maintained by tahsildars, survey sketches, grant register, Saguvali certificate/ chits and register, Phodi particulars, RTCs, proceedings before various authorities and the courts etc. related to the granted land should be digitised, the court said.

Once these documents are digitised, they have to be hyperlinked so that they are accessible from any particular document or location, the court said.

It directed the Principal Secretary of Revenue Department to coordinate with the Principal Secretary of e-Governance Department and prepare a project report with timeline for implementation, and submit it before the court.

Expert panel set up to study pollution level in Cauvery

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has formed an expert committee, headed by Niranjan, Chief Environment Officer of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, to study the pollution level in the Cauvery.

The committee will review and submit a report within 10 days to ascertain whether the Cauvery river water is polluted due to the inflow of sewage water, solid waste, industrial waste, and other types of pollutants.

The committee was formed after MLC Dinesh Gooli Gowda wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre about the possible addition of pollutants into the river.

The MLC had written that the Cauvery has lost its natural quality due to the pollutants and that the health of citizens and aquatic animals are being adversely affected.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SHRI G. RANGACHARI (@Kannan), 91 Years Passed away peacefully on 01.07.2024 at his Residence at D-3, Block-5, Jains Green Acres, 91, Dargah Road, Zamin Pallavaram Chennai 600 043. He is survived by his Wife Vasantha Rangachari, Daughters Srividhya Raghavan, Sripriya, Malavika Venkatesh and Son Vijayaraghavan Rangachari. Contact Numbers 9840938509, 044-22663224.

SAD DEMISE

Shri. A. K. P. NAMBIAR
(1931 - 2024)
Shri. A. K. P. Nambiar (ex-LRDE) passed away peacefully on 1st July 2024.
Deeply mourned by :-
Thangam, Raghu & Aruna, Prabha & Sudhir, Namratha, Aditya, family & friends.

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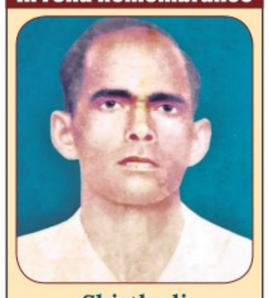

Shirthadi Venkataramana Bhat
(05-07-1924 to 14-06-1980)

We fondly remember you on your Birth Centenary. You have been an Inspiration to us - a perfect gentleman who endeared himself to all.

S Nagaratna V Bhatt
S Rajendra Kumar, Geeta Rajendra, Rajit, Radhika
Remembered by family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Those who live uprightly enter a place of peace; they rest on their beds. - Isaiah 57:2

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

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Mr. **D. Victor** Mr. **D. Gnanaraj.**

Unearthing the secrets of Indian savannas

Why is there a collective amnesia about the savannas of India? As it often does, it all goes back to the British empire, which played a crucial role in shaping the imagination of what a savanna is

A bunch of Blackbuck in search of their habitat near Kanajri village on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. VIJAY SONEJI

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

For most of us, the word savanna conjures up a singular image: the vast plains of the Serengeti in Africa, teeming with wildlife... open grasslands dotted with trees... lots of zebra, lots of wildebeest, African elephants trudging through them, says animal ecologist and conservation biologist Abi T. Vanak at a recent lecture titled *Secrets of the Indian Savanna* at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru.

It was part of *Kaapi with Kuriosity*, a monthly public lecture series organised by the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences in collaboration with the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium and other educational institutions in the city.

As school geography textbooks are likely to have told us, the world's savannas are primarily located in Africa, South America, and Australia. "India is very clearly missing from this list," says Abi, the director of the Centre for Policy Design at the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Ecology and Environment (ATREE). Yet, he adds that scientists have recently said that bioclimatic envelopes in India are similar to African savanna systems.

About the savannas

At the lecture, Abi, using a series of visual aids, including maps, videos, and photographs, delved into the idea of an Indian savanna, the wildlife and communities that inhabit this biome, his work mapping the mesocarnivores found in them and why we must stop dismissing these crucial open natural ecosystems.

A savanna is typically defined as a mixed tree-grass system with scattered trees amidst a continuous layer of grass. Within this broad definition, we could have different types of savannas depending on the density of trees, which in turn depends mostly on how much rain the landscape receives. "There are a couple of other factors, but it is mainly rainfall that is a key determinant on whether you have a very grassy system or you have more of a tree system," he says, pointing out that India too, particularly western and central India, has swathes of savannas.

The savannas in India are ancient, having come into existence millions of years ago, according to Abi. Not only is there a range of historical and archaeological evidence that proves this, but "we also know this because there are a lot of savanna-adapted species still found here...species unique to these dryland ecosystems," he says. And yet, the vegetation map of India does not address this. "Instead, what you see is one forest type after another," says Abi, who has been trying to correct the misconception that there are no savannas in India. "We do actually have savannas, and they extend through most of India," he reiterates.

Abi says that many of the open natural ecosystems in the Indian subcontinent that we consider forests are, in fact, savannas. "You would be hard-pressed to find a difference between these landscapes and those in many parts of Africa and other savanna belts." So, why is there this collective amnesia about the savannas of India? As it often does, it all goes back to the British Empire, which played a crucial role in shaping the imagination of what a forest or savanna is. When the British first arrived in India, Abi says, they envisioned it to be a land of tigers and elephants, species that are typically thought to be found in forests.

Wildebeests run across a sandy riverbed of the Sand River as they arrive at Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve from Tanzania's Serengeti National Park during the start of the annual migration. AFP

Abi T. Vanak

In their eyes, India had either thick forests or wasteland, with the former alone being valued since it was a source of timber to ship back home to the U.K. or for railway construction in India. "This categorisation of wasteland persists today," says Abi.

So prevalent is this view that the Indian government even has a document called the Wasteland Atlas of India to identify land which are "unutilised and have the potential to produce food grain and provide vegetation cover," as the introduction to the document states. Going by this, much of the Indian savanna—an estimated 70%—ends up being misclassified as a wasteland. "The savannas of India are the most threatened landscapes or natural ecosystems left in India." Since the assumption is that these lands serve no useful purpose, they are often appropriated for more "productive" purposes, such as agriculture, green energy projects and industrialisation. Also, since they are thought to be degraded forests, afforestation drives are frequently conducted on them. "Tree plantation programmes are also endangering our savannas," says Abi. "They were never meant to have trees. Yet, we are planting thousands of trees on our savannas, destroying them."

Hyenas waiting for their share of the lion's kill. Taken in the Masai Mara. GETTY IMAGES

An Indian Fox roams the open lands near Ramnathgudpalle village in Vikarabad.

Pockets of grasslands

One of the most common pictorial representations of the savannas of Africa is this: herds of antelopes galloping through sun-baked grass, leaving behind clouds of dust in their wake. Interestingly, as the book *Bandobast and Khabar: Reminiscences of India*, written by the British officer Colonel Cuthbert Larking, implies this may have once been a common enough sight in India. "Captain Norman Franks, the commissioner there (in Indore), took me one morning into the Maharajah Holkar's preserves, and on a large plain, we once saw quite a thousand buck in different herds," he writes in this memoir, published in 1888.

While most antelope species are primarily found in the savannas of Africa, a few species, such as the chinkara, blackbuck, Tibetan antelope, and four-horned antelope, are native to India. "At some point in our history, we also had those vast herds of antelopes," says Abi, adding that these scenes can no longer be seen in India. "They have gone because of British activity...a lot of hunting...also because we have converted most of those wide plains into agriculture, cities, factories and so on," he says. "But we still have a few pockets of grasslands in India."

Human-dominant now

Most of these grasslands are human-dominant today, but they still manage to hide some secrets from us, says Abi, going on to play a clip from the ATREE-produced documentary *Hidden in Plain Sight*, which chronicles a six-year-long study, by Abi and his team, conducted in human-dominated grassland landscapes close to Baramati in Maharashtra.

"They still hold wildlife that has learnt to coexist with people, species such as the Indian fox, jungle cat and golden jackal, among many others." While these species, referred to as mesocarnivores, play an essential ecological role, he says, little is known about them. "We were able to get core information of how these animals are using this landscape," he says, listing some of the team's findings. For instance, while the Indian fox stuck to the grassland and avoided the tracts used for agriculture, the golden jackal seemed to prefer the latter, while the jungle cat wandered almost everywhere. "There was one jungle cat called Sultan even walking in the city, probably bullying the alley cats," he says.

Most importantly, this study clearly proves this: wildlife isn't restricted to forests and sanctuaries but is also found in our backyards."We don't need large wildlife sanctuaries for these species, just small patches of habitat," he says. "These animals are learning to adapt and survive with us."

Why savannas matter

Not only are these landscapes home to many species of plants and animals, but they are also home to many communities that live off these grassland ecosystems. For instance, millions of pastoral communities use these landscapes to graze their cattle. "If you have eaten goat or sheep meat, it has most likely come from these savannah landscapes," he says.

They also play a critical role in carbon sequestration, storing the greenhouse gas securely in the soil, making it a fantastic natural climate change solution. As the likelihood of forest fires increases, thanks to rising temperatures, savanna-sequestered carbon becomes more crucial than ever. "(Unlike in forests) It cannot be burnt away and is more stable," says Abi, who firmly believes restoring India's savannas is essential.

"If you can restore these landscapes, you also restore the biodiversity in them, and enhance people's livelihoods."

Awareness campaign about waste management in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre said that 12 campaigns would be organised throughout the year to raise awareness about waste management in Karnataka.

Participating in the World Environment Day and Forest Festival programme on July 3, Mr. Khandre said that plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste and solid waste are the biggest challenge, and that there is a need for controlling and managing this waste.

He said that every month one awareness campaign would be conducted.

January – Biological and medical waste control month, February – E-waste control month, March – Clean water safety awareness month, April – Plastic waste control month, May – Bio-diversity and environment awareness month, June – Nature conservation month World Environment Day celebrations, July – Solid waste and building waste management month, August – Air pollution control awareness and control month, September – Promotion of eco-friendly Ganesh festivities and control of POP idols, October – Water pollution prevention month, November – Environment-friendly Diwali, and heavy metal and dangerous chemical crackers suppression month, and December – Domestic water pollution control and maintenance month.

"In these 12 months, more emphasis will be placed on the declared waste of each month. Steps will be taken for their scientific management and control."

"Inspections will be carried out and fines will be imposed," the Minister said.

The theme of this year's World Environment Day is land rehabilitation, drought management and barren land recovery, and that there is a need to create more awareness about these subjects.

After taking charge as Environment Minister, Mr. Khadre had set a target of planting five crore saplings to increase the green coverage in Karnataka.

The Forest Department had exceeded the target by planting around 5. 43 crore saplings.

An event to help address the dengue crisis in Bengaluru

I Am OneHealth, an interactive health festival, offers insights into specific actions one can take to mitigate dengue and other health-related issues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

I Am OneHealth, an interactive health festival, will be held in the city on July 5 between 11.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. as part of the My City, My Health, Our Movement. The event, organised by Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM) in association with echo network and Bengaluru Science and Technology Cluster (BeST), is all.

As part of this event, attendees will get the opportunity to meet experts from more than 12 leading organisations in Bengaluru and learn about specific actions one can take to mitigate dengue & other health-related issues. Some of the organisations who will be part of this event include the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), ARTPARK, Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS), Bangalore Sustainability Forum (BSF), ICAR - National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI), Saahas NGO, Molecular Solutions Care Health LLP, Science Gallery Bengaluru and the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum.

The unveiling of an exclusive citizen action plan to create mass awareness about dengue and fight the steady rise in cases will also take place at the inauguration ceremony. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The opening ceremony of the event will have Shri. Vikas Kishor Suralkar, Special Commissioner Health and Welfare, BBMP and Dr. Syed Madani, Chief Health Officer, Public Health, BBMP addressing the audience. The unveiling of an exclusive citizen action plan to create mass awareness about dengue and fight the steady rise in cases will also take place at this inauguration ceremony.

As part of the larger festival, technological, educational, interactive, and collaborative activities will be held to highlight the innovations in the public health space happening in Bengaluru. Experts from these organisations will interact with participants via games, stories, interactive dialogues and more, exposing them to better ways of managing diseases in the city.

To know more, email vismuseum.blr@gmail.com

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 5, 1974

Turn for Better in Sharavathy Water Level

Bangalore, July 4. The water level in the Linganamakki Reservoir feeding the Sharavathy hydel project is not as alarming as it was before, according to Mr. M.Y. Ghorpade, Finance Minister of Karnataka.

Talking to newsmen to-day after the Cabinet meeting, Mr. Ghorpade said the Inflow was much higher than the outflow.

As a result of a fall in the level, a 60 per cent cut in high tension consumption had been imposed in the State.

The Linganamakki reservloir has recorded a rise of 2.35 feet since yesterday with the inflow increasing to 24.840 cusecs. The level of the reservoir at 4 p.m.

No Cut in Funds for Health Department: Ghorpade

Bangalore, July 4. The Karnataka Finance Minister, Mr. M.Y.L Ghorpade, asserted here to-day that even while enforcing the Rs. 15-crore cut in the current year's expenditure, Plan allocations had been untouched and development and essential expenditure had been protected.

The Finance Minister was reacting to the comments of the Health Minister, Mr. H. Siddaveerappa two-days ago that whenever cuts in expenditure were resorted to the axe fell first on the health and education departments.

Mr. Siddaveerappa made this comment while discussing with pressmen the growing incidence of Malaria in the State and the large number of unfilled posts in the Health Department.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

The most-visited site of Mysuru

Mysuru Palace is among the most visited sites not only in the Karnataka but also in the country. Its construction began in 1897 and was completed in 1912 at a cost of ₹ 41, 47, 913. It is on the site of an old wooden palace that was destroyed in a fire in 1897.
Also known as Amba Vilas Palace, it was the royal residence of Wadiyars.

Abode of goddess atop the hill

Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru draws tourists and pilgrims from all over India and the present temple is an expansion of pre-existing but smaller shrine. It came into prominence with the Wadiyars of Mysuru patronising it and the existing gopura at the entrance was built during the period of Krishnaraja Wadiyar III in 1827.

Keshava temple at Somanathapur

The Keshava temple at Somanathapur is among the grandest Hoysala temples and is dated to 1258 CE. Located about 35 km from Mysuru, it was accorded the UNESCO World Heritage Site status in September, 2023. Somanathapura is located around 140 km from Bengaluru and 40 km from Mysuru. The temple was built by Somanatha Dandanayaka.

Bandipur among the first reserves

Among the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries Bandipur is reckoned to be a top draw and it was among the first to be declared as a tiger reserve when Project Tiger was launched in 1973. During the days of the maharajas, it was declared as a protected area under the Mysore Game and Forest Preservation and Regulation Act, 1931.

The demand of tourism sector

To increase tourist footfall, one of the key demands of tourism stakeholders, especially travel and tour operators, has been that the Government should reduce the entry tax of tourist vehicles from other States. Though such a concession is offered for a few days during Mysuru Dasara, the tax benefit lasts only for a few days.

Mysuru makes big recovery in tourism since the pandemic, but new challenges emerge

During 2023-24, tourist arrivals to Mysuru crossed the 4 million mark for the first time in a remarkable comeback from the dumps it reached during the COVID-19 pandemic

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

For a city whose key economic driver is tourism, Mysuru has set a new benchmark in terms of tourist footfall.

During 2023-24, tourist arrival to Mysuru crossed the 4 million (40 lakh) mark for the first time in a remarkable comeback from the dumps it reached during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The illuminated Mysuru palace is one of the grand sights not missed by tourists who visit the city. M.A. SRIRAM

Mysuru palace drew over 4 million (40 lakh) tourists during 2023-24, which is the highest ever for a given year.

The Tibetan settlement at Bylakuppe about 75 km from Mysuru, attracts a good number of tourists. M.A. SRIRAM

Mysuru palace remains the big draw

As per records maintained by the Mysuru Palace Board, 40,56,975 entry tickets were sold during 2023-24. The number of tickets sold at the palace has been the standard barometer to assess tourist traffic to the city, and is based on the assumption that no first-time visitor to Mysuru will skip a visit to the palace.

The figure does not include the weekend tourists from Bengaluru, who may use Mysuru as a base to explore lesser-known places of tourist interest or simply want to stay put in a resort far from the madding crowd of Bengaluru.

The statistics for the first three months of 2024-25 is also on the higher side. Over 1.1 million (11 lakh) persons have already visited the city between April and June. Given this rate, it is likely that the 4 million mark will be easily crossed this year as well.

This is a huge leap for the tourism sector in Mysuru where tourist arrivals hovered around the 3 million to 3.5 million (30-35 lakh) mark for more than a decade.

Improved connectivity by road and rail in recent years has contributed to the spurt in tourist footfall. Completion of the Bengaluru-Mysuru expressway, introduction of trains to Mysuru from various cities across India, two Vande Bharat trains connecting Mysuru with Chennai in addition to the existing Shatabdi Express, have played a role in the increase in tourist arrivals.

Bumpy road ahead

While the distinction achieved by Mysuru is notable, going forward there are challenges which will require policy decisions at the government-level and a vision plan for the overall expansion of the tourism sector, not only in Mysuru but also the surrounding region.

One of the key demands of tourism stakeholders, especially travel and tour operators, is that the government reduce the entry fee for tourist vehicles from other States. Though a concession is offered during Mysuru Dasara, the benefit lasts only for a few days.

Tourism expert Prof. K. Nagapati, who has authored several books on the subject, has cautioned against mindless expansion or promotion of tourism. He believes that Mysuru may have reached its saturation point beyond which it cannot accommodate more visitors.

The city's infrastructure, especially the roads, are choked with traffic while entry and exit is a hassle notwithstanding the expressway. ''It is imperative to identify other destinations and provide good connectivity besides promoting them," Prof. Nagapati added.

This view is endorsed by M.K. Savitha, Joint Director of Tourism in Mysuru. Bulk of the tourists visit the Mysuru palace, Chamundi Hills and the zoo before heading to either Bandipur or other destinations. Hence, places around Mysuru need to be better marketed. The Tourism Department is already working on a few ideas. This is expected to not only disperse the crowd, but help the growth of tourism sector in other areas as well.

Untapped potential

Despite the palace being the major attraction, it is the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Somanathapur with its 13th century Keshava temple, which is the grandest attraction of all in the region. Though the UNESCO heritage tag came in September 2023 after a long wait - it was on the tentative list since 2013 - not many tourists

The Chamundeshwari temple atop Chamundi Hills in Mysuru. M.A. SRIRAM

Stakeholders want a convention centre at the Dasara exhibition ground to promote Mysuru as a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibition) destination. M.A. SRIRAM

are aware of its importance or grandeur.

Besides, there is nothing by way of cross-promotion of the destination by putting info boards at the palace, the zoo or Chamundi Hills so that people visiting these places could be made aware of Somanathapur and plan a visit.

From the government's side, there is no push to promote Somanathapur by way of connectivity. At present, there are no regular buses to drop and pick up tourists. The heritage site is accessible to tourists only by hired buses, cabs and private vehicles.

Even the connecting road to Somanathapur, which branches off from the Mysuru-T. Narsipur highway, is not properly maintained. Signages and information boards are conspicuous by their absence.

It has been almost 10 months since the UNESCO announced the World Heritage Site tag, but there is hardly any effort to market the site, which is hardly 40 km from Mysuru.

But if Tourism Department officials are to be believed, an action plan is being prepared for improving connectivity by providing bus services while social media influencers will be roped in to reach out to the niche crowd that may be interested in heritage and archaeology.

A jewel in the crown

The historic temple at Somanathapur was conceived and consecrated during the rule of the Hoysalas in 1268 CE, as per an inscription. The temple was built by Somanatha Dandanayaka, a military official of the Hoysala king Narasimha III. Apart from displaying all the characteristic features associated with the Hoysala style of architecture, the temple has three shikaras, or towers, above the sanctum unlike the monuments at Belur and Halebidu.

The Keshava temple at Somanathapur displays sculptural exuberance as every inch of the outer wall of the temple has been carved with images of gods and goddesses from the Hindu pantheon. It is further embellished by friezes of elephants, riders, attendants, horsemen, creepers and stems, and scenes from epics, all of which are etched on stone and is a feast for the eyes.

Missing links

While authorities have realised the imperatives of promoting lesser-known places of tourist interest to fuel the tourism sector in Mysuru, there are also concerns over the near lack of international tourists to the city.

At present, less than 1% of the tourists are international travellers. The sector is almost entirely fuelled by domestic tourists.

C. Narayanagowda, representing the hospitality sector, pointed out that even among the domestic tourists, a sizeable number do not stay in Mysuru overnight. They prefer a same-day return trip. Hence, the urgency to promote places like Somanathapur, Talakad, Nanjangud and Bylakuppe so that Mysuru emerges as a base for tourists to stay for a couple of days and to explore nearby places. This, it is argued, will help keep the wheels of the sector well-oiled. The tourism sector generates over one lakh direct and indirect jobs in the region, which also includes the historic town of Srirangapatana.

However, there are concerns that promoting tourism without shoring up the infrastructure can backfire.

Policy initiatives

For an increase in foreign tourist arrivals, improving air connectivity has been flagged as a necessity. One of the key demands of the stakeholders, submitted to the government, is the resumption of flights to Goa and Kochi in Kerala.

Both Goa and Kerala are popular among international tourists. A direct air link is expected to give an impetus to draw foreign tourists for whom Mysuru is a far-flung, or a distant, location way off the main trail, notwithstanding its status as a yoga hub.

There is also a growing realisation that conventional tourism – sightseeing – cannot sustain the sector. This has led to a revival of a concept which is popular in major international tourist destinations. It calls for developing infrastructure to promote Mysuru as a MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibition) destination.

''This requires state-of-the-art infrastructure and best-in-class facilities if it is to be successful, but a beginning has to be made," according to Prof. Nagapati.

It is in the realm of government to formulate a policy to develop infrastructure, which requires huge investment, for such an initiative to take off. Whether it will materialise or join the list of dozens of such pending demands before the government, is anybody's guess.

'CPI(M) failed to counter Hindutva politics'

Taking stock of the LS election results, party's Central Committee highlights the organisational weakness of CPI(M) in various States; it says there has been an erosion in party's traditional base to BJP in Kerala; it cites arrogance among party cadres and calls for containing corruption at various levels

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Introspecting the 2024 Lok Sabha election results, the Communist Party of India (Marxist)'s highest decision making body, the Central Committee, in a review noted that in Kerala, where the party could only win a single seat, there has been an "erosion" in their "traditional base in several constituencies to the BJP."

The panel meeting was held for three days from June 28 at Delhi. The review underlined that the party did not pay sufficient attention to counter "Hindutva politics". It also pointed out that there was a gap in the party's own pre-poll estimate and actual results illustrating "weakening of the party's live links with people". The panel also criticised the "growing instances of corruption in the panchayats, cooperative institutions and at various other levels," saying that must be checked and strictly curbed.

"Instances of arrogant behaviour of cadres from top to bottom are alienating people from the party. The importance of rectification to eliminate wrong trends and behaviour must be undertaken in a planned manner," the panel's review said.

Out of the 20 seats in Kerala, CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front could win only one seat. While the party's tally did not change from 2019, the LDF's vote share has come down by 1.75 percentage points. The panel document specifically underscores that the decline has been far sharper over a decade. In 2014, the LDF had 40.2% and in 2024 it has come down by 7 percentage points.

Taking a close look: Out of the 20 Lok Sabha seats in Kerala, the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front could win only one. H. VIBHU

"A disturbing feature of the election results is the erosion of our traditional base in several constituencies to the BJP. While the main reason for the success of the BJP in Thrissur is the vote it got from the Congress base and a section of the Christians, it is a fact that some of our voting base has gone to the BJP in several places," the document notes.

Other States

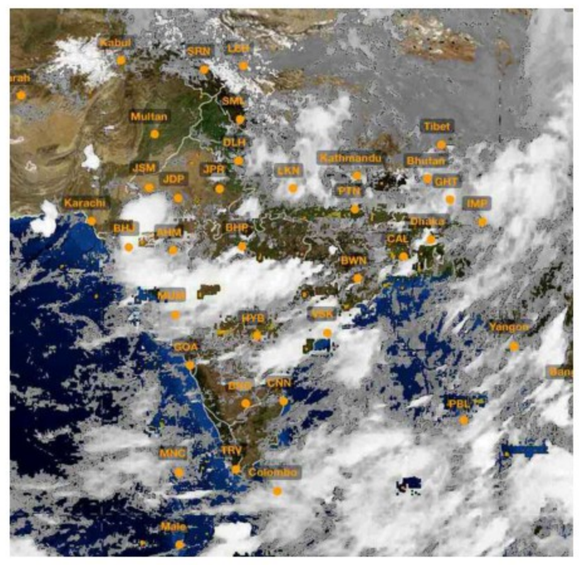
In West Bengal, the panel noted that while selection of candidates was good it did not have the desired effect because of weak organisational structure. "The State committee review notes that there were no polling agents in 12-14% of booths. This points to the weak state of party organisation. There are many areas where there has been no party in existence for a long time," the panel said.

The party has found similar shortcomings in Tamil Nadu too, where even on the two seats that the party won – Madurai and Dindigul – only "40-50% of party members belonging to the two constituencies have worked in the election campaign."

At the same time, the panel noted that the Left has played an important role in rallying the secular forces against the RSS/BJP and to strengthen the INDIA bloc. The CPI(M) contested 52 seats this time compared to 71 (including 2 CPI(M)-supported Independents) in 2019. Its national vote share has been reduced by 58,230 votes.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3.1	31.2	26.0	Kozhikode	63	34.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	0.1	35.0	27.7	Kurnool	—	35.9	26.4
Aizawl	2	30.7	23.4	Lucknow	5	34.4	26.6
Allahabad	—	38.3	27.7	Madurai	—	39.1	26.5
Bengaluru	—	28.6	21.4	Mangaluru	23.2	25.2	22.5
Bhopal	29	30.6	23.8	Mumbai	2	33.4	28.3
Bhubaneswar	7.8	32.1	27.2	Mysuru	—	29.8	—
Chandigarh	9	34.0	27.1	New Delhi	9	31.7	24.8
Chennai	—	35.1	22.6	Patna	—	32.8	26.6
Coimbatore	—	33.6	23.0	Port Blair	13.3	28.1	24.5
Dehradun	10.8	32.0	14.4	Puducherry	0.1	33.9	26.2
Gangtok	21	20.7	19.0	Pune	—	30.0	23.9
Goa	13	29.6	26.2	Raipur	1	31.3	24.2
Guwahati	8	35.0	26.1	Ranchi	9	30.4	23.2
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	3	24.1	18.2
Hyderabad	—	33.6	25.2	Shimla	84	22.4	17.0
Imphal	33	31.2	21.5	Srinagar	—	35.7	23.5
Jaipur	14	28.0	26.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	24.8
Kochi	13	31.6	24.4	Tiruchi	—	36.7	27.4
Kohima	29	23.5	17.8	Vijayawada	—	37.0	27.4
Kolkata	10.4	32.6	26.2	Visakhapatnam	—	32.2	28.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	..42	..7	55	...103	
Bengaluru	.13	..36	86	28	37	
Chennai	...5	7	96	—	52	
Delhi	.27	..25	68	58	...108	
Hyderabad	.29	..22	30	55	68	
Kolkata	.12	..51	47	30	49	
Lucknow	.10	9	70	26	51	
Mumbai	.24	..38	31	65	59	
Pune	..—	..40	70	33	43	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..56	31	64	...120	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Barmer, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 269 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Devise policy for online drug sales quickly, HC tells Centre

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has directed the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as well as the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation to expedite the process of finalising a policy for online sale of medicines and notify it at the earliest.

A Division Bench of Justices S.M. Subramaniam and C. Kumarappan made it clear that till then, only licensed druggists and chemists could indulge in online sales. The orders were passed while disposing of a batch of writ appeals filed by some of the e-pharma firms in 2018. They had challenged a single judge's order which banned online sale of medicines till the Centre notifies the statutory rules to regulate the trade.

However, in January 2019, a Division Bench of Justices M. Sathyanarayanan and P. Rajamanickam (both retired) had stayed the operation of the single judge's order while admitting the present appeals.

Senior standing counsel for the Centre, N. Ramesh brought it to the notice of the court that a similar case was pending before the Delhi High Court where a Joint Secretary from the Health Ministry had appeared in person on March 4 this year and assured the court that the policy would be notified within four months.

After taking note of the official's submission, the Madras High Court disposed of the appeals with a direction to the Centre to expedite the process.

'Brain-eating amoeba' claims Kerala boy's life

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

A 12-year-old boy from Feroke who had been undergoing treatment for primary amoebic meningoencephalitis at a hospital in Kozhikode city died on Wednesday. This is the third death due to the rare infection in the past two months in Kerala.

According to sources, E.P. Mridul, a Class 7 student, was first taken to a hospital after he complained of headache and vomiting last month. Mridul had taken bath in a local pond earlier.

The infection is caused by *Naegleria fowleri*, also called 'brain-eating amoeba', which lives in fresh warm water. It infects people when it enters their body through the nose. The symptoms include headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, altered mental status, and seizures.

The Health Department is planning to issue special guidelines for the treatment of the infection against the backdrop of these deaths.

Ex-BRS leader resigns from Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A day after joining the Congress, K. Keshava Rao tendered his resignation from membership of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

He handed the resignation to Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar.

After being with BRS for 10 years, he rejoined Congress in the presence of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday.

Sources said that he is likely to be elected to the Rajya Sabha by Congress.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SHAHABAD, DIST. KALABURAGI
www.shahabadcity.mrc.gov.in email.id : itstaff_ulb_shahabad@yahoo.com

No: CMCS/T.S./D.W./15th financial/2023-24 Date: 02.07.2024

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

E- tender under e-Procurement (KPPP) process with indent numbers of total 10 works including Under 15th financial plan (Savings Grant) for the year 2020-21 and Electrical Works for the 2023-24 and a work for drinking water (installation of pulculator / placulator / plaqulator and motor in water treatment plant) under SFC grant for the year 2023-24, e-tenders with provisions KW-1, KW-2 and KW-3 has been invited by City Municipal Council , Shahabad , Kalaburagi Dist

The details are as follows.

1) Indent Number : 1. DMA 2024-25/EL/Work_Indent 20018, 2. DMA/2024-25 EL/Work_Indent 20137, 3. DMA/2024-25/WT/Work_Indent20208, 4. DMA/2024-25/OW/Work_Indent20347, 5. DMA/2023- 24/RD/Work Indent/13941/CALL-3 (SC), 6. DMA/2023- 24/WS/Work_Indent13945/CALL-3 (SC), 7. DMA/2023- 24/WS/Work Indent13034/CALL-2, 8. DMA/2023- 24/OW/Work_Indent13672/CALL-3, 9. DMA 2023- 24 OW/Work Indent8309/CALL-2 10) DMA/2023- 24/OW/Work indent8301/CALL-2, 2) Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs) : Minmum : 5.05, Maximum 73.71, 3) Amount put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs) : Minimum 4.28, Maximum 60.91, 4) Amount of EMD in Rupees : Minimum 9660.00, Maximum 91365.00, 5) Class of Contractor : As per KPPP portal. 6) Tender Submission Last Date: 12.07.2024 upto 4.30pm, 7) Opening Date of Tender : 15.07.2024 11.00 Am.

The details of the above said works and other conditions can be obtained through the KPP portal website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and if more information is required, can be obtained during the office hours of the Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council , Shahabad, Kalaburagi.

Sd/- Municipal Commissioner
City Municipal Council, Shahabad

DIPR/Kalaburagi/170/KSMC&A/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client **KNS Equity Estates LLP, a registered Partnership Firm, having its office at** No.1125/12, 1st Floor, Service Road, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore, Karnataka, India - 560104**. KNS Equity Estates LLP** intends to develop the Schedule Property and are conducting a due diligence of the properties described in the Schedule hereto below. Any person or persons, having any claim, interest or right on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED TO ABOVE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties situated at Vaddarahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli (Kantanakunte Panchayat), Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on the

Sl. no.	Sy. No. & Extent	Boundaries			
		East by	West by	North by	South by
1.	158/1 01 Acre 26 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No 156	Land bearing Survey No. 159	Land bearing Survey No 158/2	Land bearing Survey No. 157
2.	158/2 03 Acres 11 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 156	Land bearing Survey No. 159	Land bearing Survey No. 159	Land bearing Survey No. 158/1
3.	159/1 03 Acres ½ Gunta Kharab	Land bearing Survey No. 156 and 158	Land bearing Survey No. 198 and 199	Land bearing Survey No. 221, existing road and land bearing Survey No. 163	Land bearing Survey No. 158 and 159/2
4.	159/2 02 Acres 17 Guntas ½ Gunta Kharab	Land bearing Survey No. 145 No. 157 and 158	Land bearing Survey No. 160 and 199	Land bearing Survey No. 159/1	Land bearing Survey No.145
5.	198 05 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 159	Land bearing Survey No. 215	Land bearing Survey No. 215	Land bearing Survey No. 199
6.	199 01 Acre 15 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 159 and 198	Land bearing Survey No. 216	Land bearing Survey No. 216	Land bearing Survey No. 160
7.	206 01 Acre	Land bearing Survey No. 162	Existing Road	Land bearing Survey No. 162	Land bearing Survey No. 207
8.	207 01 Acre 06 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 162 and 209	Existing Road	Land bearing Survey No. 206	Land bearing Survey No. 208
9.	209 01 Acre 08 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 210	Land bearing Survey No. 162 and 207	Land bearing Survey No. 162	Land bearing Survey No. 208 and 215
10.	210 01 Acre 06 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 211	Land bearing Survey No. 209	Land bearing Survey No. 162	Land bearing Survey No. 215
11.	211 01 Acre 02 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 212	Land bearing Survey No. 210	Land bearing Survey No. 162	Land bearing Survey No. 215
12.	212 01 Acre 06 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 213	Land bearing Survey No. 162 and 211	Land bearing Survey No. 162	Land bearing Survey No. 215
13.	213 01 Acre 06 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 162	Land bearing Survey No. 212	Land bearing Survey No. 162	Land bearing Survey No. 215
14.	214 26 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 218	Land bearing Survey No. 162	Land bearing Survey No. 162	Land bearing Survey No. 215
15.	215 02 Acres 34 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 220	Land bearing Survey No. 208	Land bearing Survey No. 162, 209 to 214	Land bearing Survey No. 198 and 216
16.	216 01 Acre 28 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 198 and 199	Land bearing Survey No. 208	Land bearing Survey No. 215	Land bearing Survey No. 199 and 217
17.	218 15 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 220	Land bearing Survey No. 214	Land bearing Survey No. 163 and Road	Land bearing Survey No. 220
18.	219 25 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 163	Village Road	Land bearing Survey No. 163	Village Road
19.	220 27 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 221	Land bearing Survey No. 218	Land bearing Survey No. 163 and Road	Land bearing Survey No. 215
20.	221 01 Acre 23 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 163	Land bearing Survey No. 220	Land bearing Survey No. 163	Land bearing Survey No. 159

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"FM House" 6/12, Primrose Road Bengaluru 560 025 Phone: +91 80 2559 5911 e-mail: prashantha.kumar@foxmandal.in.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is represented to the undersigned that the original Sale Deed dated 07-02-1983, executed by Smt. Somamma, wife of Sri. D. M. Somappa in favour of Sri. D. M. Nagarajappa, son of Late Patel Maralusiddaiah, registered vide Document No. 838/1988-89 of Book I, Volume 792, at Pages 73 to 76, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Sakaleshpura pertaining to the agricultural dry land bearing Survey No.87/1 (earlier portion of Survey No. 87), measuring 03 acres 05 guntas, situated at Agalatti Village, Hanubalu Hobli, Sakaleshpura Taluk, Hassan District has been lost/misplaced by the erstwhile owners and the property is not subject to mortgage, lien/charges. Any person/s in possession of the aforementioned sale deed shall return the same to the undersigned.

Vinay K.S., Advocate,
Vinay Kademane & Associates
307, 3rd floor, Prestige Centre Point,
Cunningham Road,
Bengaluru-560001
email : vinay@vinaykademane.in
Place : Bengaluru
Date : 04-07-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client, **Sri. Shivram.M son of Late. Munibyrappa,** aged about 40 years, residing at Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District is intending to purchase (to be enter Sale deed) and entered a Notarized Agreement of Sale dated 30.09.2023, vide Sl No.1773, Page 38, Vol No.05 dated 30.09.2023 and Notarized Memorandum dated 30.09.2023, vide Sl No.1772, Page No. 37-38, Vol No.05 dated 30.09.2023, as per entries made in Notary Registrar maintained by Sri. L.Puttaraju, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru (Urban)) Revenue Taluk.B.D (Reg No.LAW-LCL/274/2020) dated 30.09.2023 with present owners namely, 1) Sri.S.Suresh son of Late. S.Sreepathi, aged about 74 years (Aadhar No. 4729 2026 5994) and his family members, residing at: House No.355, 2nd Main Road, 42nd Cross, 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560 070 in respect of all that piece and parcel of residential converted lands bearing Sy No.12/1, measuring 0.10 guntas (with 2 guntas of Karab), MR No.T24/2022-2023 bounded on East by: Sy No.12/2, West by: Sy No.13 &9, North by: Sy No.78 & 79 and West by: Sy No.9 and Sy No.12/2, measuring 010 guntas, Vide MR. No.T24/2022-2023 bounded on East by: Sy No. 11 & Road, West by: Sy No.12/1, North by: Sy No. 79 and West by: Sy No.9 totally 20 guntas, both are adjacent lands situated at **Sadahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District,** in respect of the aforesaid contract on 30.09.2023 my claint paid a Sum of Rs. 20,00,000/-(Rupees Twenty Lakhs Only) and on 27.05.2024 paid a Rs . 55,00,000/- (Rupees Fiffty Five Lakhs Only) totally Sum of Rs.75,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs Only) out of total sale consideration of Rs.2,00,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crores). Any person/s or institutions/s having any Claim/s or Objection/s in respect of the above property may file the same along with necessary documents with the undersigned council within **07 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Sri HARISH KUMAR.G,
Advocate,
M/s. HARI LAW CHAMBER
2nd floor, "Sri Sai Nilaya",
3rd Cross, Shantinagar North,
Behind Punjab National Bank,
Sulibele Road, NH-207,
Devanahalli Town 562 110
Ph-99026 68499

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute
Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow-226001 U.P. (India)
www.nbri.res.in

No.: 3-2/88(Group IV)/2021-R&A

Notice

It is hereby informed that due to unavoidable administrative reasons, the previously issued Advertisement No. 03/2021 for the recruitment of Scientific posts in the Institute, stands cancelled with immediate effect.

Controller of Administration

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute
Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow-226001 U.P. (India)
www.nbri.res.in

No.: 3-2/88(Group IV)/2019-R&A

Notice

It is hereby informed that due to unavoidable administrative reasons, the previously issued Advertisement No. 01/2019 for the recruitment of Scientific posts in the Institute, stands cancelled with immediate effect.

Controller of Administration

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.N.Nagaraju S/o Sri.C.Narasimhamurthy** to bring the notice of the general public that, Original registered absolute sale deed bearing doc No.5113/2001-02 of Book-1, Date.30.07.2001, executed by **Praveen Ranka S/o Mr.Devaraj Ranka** in favour of **B.K.Sujatha D/o Mr.B.R.Krishna Raju.** And Original registered General Power of Attorney bearing doc No.KEN-4-00754/2006-07 of Book-4, Stored in CD No.KEND372, Date.05.03.2007, executed by **Smt.Bhagya Nagaraj W/o Mr.H.Nagaraja** in favour of **Mr.H.Nagaraja S/o Sri.Hanumappa,** said both documents are registered in the office of the sub-registrar Kengeri, and same are missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing **site No.99,** now BBMP Katha No.1402/99, old Katha No.358, then 1402, formed in converted Sy.No.8/7, vide order No.B.DIS/ALN/SR(S)227/98-99, Dated.07.05.1999, situated at **Thalaghatapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** presently comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West 45 feet and North to South 45+45.6/2feet, totally measuring **2,036.5 Sq.ft.**, and bounded by :
East by : Road, West by : Property No.88, North by : Property No.100, South by : Road.

H. Prahlada B.A.,L.L.B
Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (IMA & OTHER KPIDFE SCAM CASES)
Podium Block,3rd Floor, V.V Tower, Bengaluru-560001
e-mail: splocaima21@gmail.com, Phone No.080-29565353/29604556

No. SPLOCA/ADM/06/2022 **Date: 27.06.2024**

NOTIFICATION

Resume are invited from interested individuals to fill up the following various posts which have been sanctioned and not filled up to the Office of the Special Officer and the Competent Authority (IMA and Other KPIDFE Scam). The applications shall be submitted to the above office. **Last date of submission of Resume: 12th July 2024.**

Details of Post

Sl. No	Post/ Designation	Qualification		Relevant Experience		No. of Post	Contract wage per Month
		Basic	Preference	Basic	Preference		
1	Private Secretary (Junior)	LLB	Knowledge of Computers or Stenographer	1 Year as Steno & PA in Govt/ Govt. Agencies	2 Year as Steno & PA in Govt/ Govt. Agencies	1	35,000/-

The Position to be filled is a post created in the office of Special officer & Competent Authority, Financial Frauds Revenue Department Government of Karnataka vide Government Order No. RD45GRC2020(PIII) dated:25-08-2022 and is renewable year on year. It is a post on contract renewable on satisfactory performance with periodic enhancement of salary scales, **not permanent government service.**

Sd/-
Asst. Commissioner
Special Officer and Competent Authority,
IMA and Other KPIDFE Cases, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/767/Zenkar/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all and whomsoever it may concern that my client - Banks / Financial Insitutions is/are considering to sanction loan to the Loan Applicant/s by accepting the schedule property, as collateral security. The schedule property presently belongs to **Smt. A. Savitha.**

If any other person/s / authorities has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, claim, charge or lien over the schedule property, they are hereby requested to file their objections to the mortgage of the said schedule property to the Financial Institutions / Banks and shall inform/object the same in writing along with the photocopies of the documents relied for such claim/objections, through the registered post with acknowledgment due to the undersigned **within 10 days** from the date of publication of this notice.

If no valid claim/objection is received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client Banks / Financial Institutions shall proceed to accept the schedule property as collateral security and create mortgage for having sanctioned the loan to the Loan Applicant, deeming that no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule property

SCHEUDLE PROPERTY

All that piece & parcel of the Western portion of the immoveable property bearing House No.331-902 (Municipal No.903) (PID No. 59-42-903), measuring East to West 15 ft. and North to South 51' + 52' /2 ft., situated at 9th Cross Road, Shastrinagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore and bounded on the
East by : Eastern portion of the same property sold to Smt. Nagamma **West by :** Property No.330, **North by :** Road, **South by:** Properties bearing No.382 & 383

RAGHAVENDRA P HOGADE ADVOCATE
No.186/8, 1st Floor, Sirur Park Road, Behind Nataraj Theatre, Seshadripuram, Bangalore – 560 020

Dangerous precedent

Shielding Presidents from answering for crimes subverts rule of law

The majority ruling by the United States Supreme Court that the President has either absolute or presumptive immunity from criminal prosecution raises disconcerting questions about the supremacy of the rule of law in the country. In a ruling based mainly on the doctrine of separation of powers and the need to insulate the Presidency from the fear of future prosecutions, and not the text of the U.S. Constitution, the court, dominated by conservative justices, by 6:3 majority has ruled in favour of presidential immunity. The verdict does not decide whether former President Donald J. Trump will enjoy immunity from prosecution for allegedly trying to interfere with or alter the outcome of the November 2020 presidential elections that he lost to Joe Biden. Instead, it lays down a threshold test for any intended prosecution of a President to see whether the act complained of involved the exercise of a core constitutional duty, or was an official or unofficial act. In respect of a President's core constitutional duties, the immunity is absolute; for other official acts, he enjoys presumptive immunity, that is, he is presumed to be immune unless rebutted by facts; and for unofficial or private acts, there is no immunity at all. For official acts, any prosecution is permissible only if it does not intrude into the power and authority of the executive.

The majority has remanded issues that arise in the prosecution of Mr. Trump for his attempts to influence the electoral outcome, culminating in the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, to the trial court for analysis based on this ruling. The dissenting views speak with moral clarity when they question the claim that only immunity from criminal prosecution can enable a President to function in an unhesitating and bold manner. While it is valid to argue that the President should be free from intrusive probes and fear of trivial prosecution, it is inconceivable that such a powerful office should come with little accountability and the freedom to violate criminal law. Critics of the verdict see great peril for democracy in its implications. As the dissent asks, can a President take a bribe in lieu of a pardon, or authorise a rival's assassination? The majority wants to protect the Presidency from any intrusion in the name of criminal prosecution, but what it fails to see is that Mr. Trump's actions may have been destructive of his successor's Presidency. While there is a passing mention of the possibility that he may have been acting in his capacity as a candidate or a party leader in some instances, it is astonishing that the verdict allows the use of the presidency as a shield even in matters that solely concern the election process.

Grave concern

The risk of international spread of wild type-1 polio cases from Pakistan is great

The ambitious goal of eradicating wild-type poliovirus type-1 (WPV1) by 2026 appears to have become tougher. WPV1, which is endemic only in Pakistan and Afghanistan, is showing signs of a resurgence since 2023. With Afghanistan and Pakistan reporting six WPV1 cases each in 2023 – there were two cases in Afghanistan and 20 cases in Pakistan in 2022 – the total incidence of type-1 cases in both countries in 2023 might appear to have nearly halved. But with six cases in Afghanistan and five cases in Pakistan already this year, there appears to be an uptick. If this continues, the total cases being reported from the two countries might be close to or even surpass the 2022 numbers. The concern about WPV1 is not limited to the number of cases in children. The circulation of the virus in the environment is seen to be rising, and, most importantly, after a gap of two years, positive environmental samples have been increasingly collected in Pakistan, in 2023 and till early June this year, from cities which have been historical reservoirs for the virus. Last year, 125 positive environmental samples were collected from 28 districts in Pakistan. Of these, 119 belonged to a genetic cluster (YB3A), which suggests that these were imported from Afghanistan. By June 1 this year, there have been 153 positive environmental samples from 39 districts. As of April 8, 2024, 34 positive environmental samples were collected from Afghanistan.

According to the World Health Organization, the presence of positive environmental samples in "epidemiologically critical areas and historical reservoirs" such as Karachi, Quetta and the Peshawar-Khyber blocks in Pakistan, and Kandahar in Afghanistan, represents a significant risk to the gains made in the past. Rising positive environmental samples are a reflection of polio campaigns not really achieving their desired coverage; fake finger marking sans vaccination is a persisting problem. Though children in Pakistan's cities are largely immunised, there is a heightened risk of the virus striking any unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated children – in 2023, two of the six cases were from Karachi city. The situation in Pakistan appears worse than it is in Afghanistan with the actual spread of WPV1 seen "predominantly in Afghanistan in 2022 now being detected in Pakistan in 2023 and 2024". There is also the grave risk of international spread from Pakistan, particularly to Afghanistan. With over 0.5 million Afghan refugees forced to leave Pakistan, and an estimated 0.8 million to be evicted soon, there is an increased risk of cross-border spread of the virus. There is a large pool of unvaccinated and under-immunised children in southern Afghanistan, increasing the risk that returning refugees can pose.

Computer literacy in India needs a reboot

Vachaspati Shukla

Assistant Professor at the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPEISR)

Santosh Kumar Dash

Assistant Professor at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA)

Computer literacy is essential in today's world as critical services such as banking, health care and various government services have become digital. Computer literacy implies the knowledge and the ability to use computers and technology efficiently. It ensures that individuals can access and use these services effectively, enhancing their quality of life. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of computer and Internet access, from ordering groceries and online education to managing banking and health-care services. Recognising this, the Indian government launched the Digital India campaign in 2015 to transform the country into a digitally empowered society. Moreover, computer education is increasingly being integrated into the formal education system – in schools from an early age. Additionally, numerous skill development and vocational training programmes are focusing on enhancing computer literacy among youth and adults, mainly targeting underprivileged and marginalised communities to bridge the digital divide.

The recently released NSS 78th round of the Multiple Indicator Survey (conducted in 2020-21) is a household survey that provides individual-level information on computer literacy. Computer literacy, defined as the ability to use a computer, stands at 24.7% among individuals aged 15 years and above.

This marks an increase from 18.4% in 2017-18 to 24.7% in 2020-21 overall. In rural areas, it is an increase from 11.1% to 18.1%, while in urban areas, it was from 34.7% to 39.6%. These figures are cause for concern and cast a shadow over the nation's digital aspirations. Unless there are serious measures to universalise digital literacy, rural India's population, which is nearly 70%, will face significant disadvantages. More importantly, given the government's aim to provide various public services through digital technology, a significant portion of the population will remain excluded.

Unequal literacy across age groups

Expectedly, the proportion of computer-literate individuals varies across various age groups in India. The survey reveals that computer literacy diminishes with age, with higher rates observed among younger demographics. This trend, common in societal contexts, reflects the disparity in computer education accessibility between recent and older age cohorts, often referred to as a "cohort effect" or "generation effect" in social sciences. Hence, the overall computer literacy rate of 24.7% exhibits significant inequality across age cohorts. It peaks among individuals aged 20-24 years, reaching 45.9%, and declines to its lowest point among the oldest age group of 65-69 years, at 4.4%. Even among the youngest age cohorts, computer literacy has not reached 50%. Looking at the increasing spread of computer technology in every aspect of life, a larger chunk of the population will be excluded in the modern development journey.

> With a clear plan to run various public services with technology, a significant portion of the country's population needs to be able to cross the digital divide

Given that individuals aged 20-39 years are typically in the midst of their careers or job searching, representing a middle-aged population, it is noteworthy that their computer literacy rate stands at just 34.8%. Further, there is significant variation in computer literacy for this particular age group across the various States of India. Our analysis of computer literacy rates among individuals aged 20-39 years across States shows a striking 55.1 percentage point gap between Kerala (72.7%), and Assam, where only 17.6% possess computer skills in this age group. Economically disadvantaged States such as Assam (17.6%), Bihar (20.4%), Madhya Pradesh (21%), Jharkhand (21.2%), Uttar Pradesh (22.9%), Odisha (25.1%), Chhattisgarh (26%), and Rajasthan (27.6%) lag behind, with less than 30% proficiency in computer operation. Given that computer literacy is pivotal to the social and economic development of States, the lower rates in economically backward States exacerbate their disadvantage in benefiting from modern development. A failure to address this divide will widen the development gap across Indian States. Bridging the digital divide and fostering inclusive growth necessitates sustained efforts by government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders.

Understanding India's modest progress

One reason could be that many schools and colleges across India lack the necessary infrastructure and qualified teachers to impart adequate computer training. This shortfall contributes to significant deficiencies in computer literacy among young students and new graduates, which could constrain their employment opportunities. Although computer education is a part of the school curriculum, there are significant gaps in access and instructional standards, highlighting the need to prioritise computer literacy within the education system. Among older age groups, computer illiteracy could be attributed to a lack of motivation to learn or due to limited access to learning resources. It is a common observation that older demographics tend to exhibit less enthusiasm in embracing new technologies.

Computer illiteracy in today's digital society can severely restrict an individual's opportunities and experiences. It leads to limited job prospects, social isolation, financial exclusion from online transactions and services, and restricted access to vast information resources. As Artificial Intelligence advances, employers seek individuals not only familiar with computers but also equipped with the capability to execute complex tasks. Thus, learning how to use a computer and the Internet can help employees develop skills that employers are looking for. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) survey (2014-15) found that adults without computer experience are more often unemployed, with a 52.5% employment rate, compared to 72.7% for those with basic computer skills. In a 2017 study, "Do Computer Skills Affect Worker Employment? An Empirical Study from CPS Surveys", economist Gang Peng finds that computer skills enhance employability and worker productivity. In a separate investigation, Preston-Lee Govindasamy in South Africa validated a positive correlation between computer literacy, employment probability, and earnings.

Further, computer literacy exacerbates socio-economic inequalities by creating a digital divide and a skill gap, leading to unequal job market opportunities. Those with better computer skills can leverage technology for personal and professional development, while those lacking these skills face barriers in accessing essential services, participating in the digital economy, and advancing their careers, thus perpetuating economic disparities.

Schools, older population as focus areas

While India has made some progress in computer literacy, the outreach and outcomes of this mission remain limited. Further, the data show that there is significant disparity in both the level and distribution of computer literacy across States. The existence of a wide digital divide between economically prosperous and disadvantaged States will hinder inclusive growth and development opportunities for large segments of the population.

Thus, schools should equip students with computer skills that will allow them to fully participate in our rapidly changing economies. School education should ensure that all graduating students possess computer literacy skills, as this is crucial to bridge the digital divide. The government should allocate resources towards the training of computer personnel and ensure sufficient staffing levels. Additionally, for the older population outside the formal education system, targeted programmes are essential. These should involve various institutions, including local governing bodies such as panchayats and non-governmental organisations, to effectively reach and empower older individuals with computer literacy skills. Finally, the government should also conduct a thorough review of such computer literacy and develop strategies to achieve higher literacy and reduce disparities in the coming years.

The shape of a five-year climate agenda for India

Vaibhav Chaturvedi

a Senior Fellow at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and leads its low carbon economy and carbon markets research

As the new government settles in, what it does to scale up climate action will affect every Ministry, new and old, and every sector, big and small. Some of its choices would be pivotal to how India structures its economic path in a sustainable way, positions itself as the voice of the Global South at the right tables, and fights for climate finance and justice over the next five years.

India's transformation

Over the last decade, India has shown significant climate intent and progress on many fronts. It has moved on from being a hesitant participant reacting to developments in the global climate discourse to being a bold leader shaping narratives and institutions. First, it has laid the foundation for global institutions such as the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Global Biofuels Alliance, as well as shaped the Green Development Pact under its G-20 presidency last year. Second, for the first time, India has started talking about bolder and more ambitious emission mitigation targets. The 2070 net-zero target and ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) are milestones. With the net-zero announcement, India has acknowledged the criticality of absolute emission reductions over the near-term relative emissions-intensity-based targets. The net-zero goal has changed the debate domestically with various actors, policymakers and the private sector. Third, sustainability-linked domestic economic policies are no longer on the margins. The creation of an Indian emissions carbon trading scheme, an institution that should operate for at least 30-40 years, is a case in point.

In the next five years, the government must accelerate and show the world that economic development can be sustainable, too. India should follow the mantra of 'go higher, go wider, go deeper' to align its climate leadership with economic prowess.

> The new government should aim to take India's global climate leadership to the next level with a 'higher, wider, deeper' plan

A plan sheet for India

'Go higher' relates to India's global leadership. The country could, sooner or later, host important international climate summits. If it were to host the United Nations Conference of Parties in 2028, it would need to be as successful as the G-20 Presidency. In global negotiations, four years is not that far. Does India want 'the world agrees to no new investment in oil and gas after 2030' as part of the decision text? Does it want a big commitment on adaptation finance so that developing countries can shield themselves against increasing heatwaves, storms, floods and droughts? It takes at least four to five years to achieve consensus on contentious issues. Deciding on what could potentially be the big wins in 2028 and socialising these across countries to stitch alliances and allay concerns must start right away. Alongside, India should continue doubling down on the narrative of equity in international forums, and create leadership space for itself in global institutions that can deliver climate finance.

'Go wider' means India has to adopt and strongly communicate sectoral emission reduction targets that go beyond the power sector. India has achieved significant progress in the power sector and will continue to do so to keep pace with its international non-fossil share-related and domestic renewable energy capacity targets.

The next step is to broaden the target to other sectors. For instance, it could be related to the private mobility space, giving a clear target for zero-carbon two- and four-wheelers. This is not just an urban India project. It will help rural India become mobile, drive jobs in clean energy and sustainability, and promote economic growth. As the last decade has shown, credible policy goals have been powerful signals and forced relevant industries and stakeholders to act. The NDC for 2035, due to be submitted next year, can be an opportunity for going wider with India's energy transition targets.

State-level plans are important

Finally, going deeper implies that sub-national climate action and resilience must come to the fore in this term of the government. Some shoots of this are already visible. The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) is working across many States in India to support their net-zero plans through long-term climate and energy modelling. For instance, we collaborated with Tamil Nadu and Bihar for their recently-released plans for a transition towards a net-zero future. The government should think about creating a Centre-State coordination group, incentivising State-level climate actions through the Sixteenth Finance Commission, promoting a deeper integration of scientific modelling capabilities in policymaking, and facilitating a unified data measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) architecture at the State level. Given India's federal structure, this recommendation does not mean centralising climate actions, but ensuring that State-level actions are better coordinated without compromising their autonomy. This is possible only if the process goes beyond States individually trying to understand and respond to the climate crisis, and the Centre comes in as an active facilitator.

The new government should aim to take India's global climate leadership to the next level in its new term. It should look ahead for at least the next four to five years, and not just a year at a time. On most international tables now, India has a seat. It must now demonstrate prowess.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jarring

We cannot bring back the dead, but the least we could have done was to grieve for those who lost their precious lives ("Hathras stampede toll hits 121; organiser pins blame on 'anti-social elements'" (July 4). The large-scale T20 World Cup celebrations at this moment are cause for introspection. Have we lost sensitivity and compassion towards our own countrymen? Could not the victory celebrations have been low key?

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Railways and safety

There have been many train accidents in India in the near past. The recent one in which a goods train collided with an express train near West Bengal's New Jalpaiguri is gruesome. When Lalu Prasad Yadav was the Union Minister for Railways, accidents were very rare. Further, he was able to ensure that the Railways became a good and profit-making entity. He never hiked passenger fares except for a small hike in goods train utility. Moving to the issue of safety, the protective system of automatic brakes, known as the Kavach system, seems to be the most effective solution. It is unfortunate that such a safety system was not available in the recent accident. It is sad that the Railways which manages one of the largest rail systems in the world no longer has a separate Budget. The allocation for the Railways is measly now.

M.L. Raghavan,
Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu

Corrections & Clarifications

An incorrect solution grid was published for The Hindu Crossword No. 14217 (July 4, 2024, all editions). The correct solution grid can be accessed at https://newsth.live/14217

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Parliament functioning

In Parliament recently, some in the Opposition complained that their microphones were switched off. The Speaker and the Chairman were quick to say that they had no hand in it. Given that this is a brand new building, should there not be an inquiry into how the microphones failed?

S. Venkataraman,
Bengaluru

Should India review its Myanmar policy in view of the humanitarian crisis?

PARLEY

Rajiv Bhatia
is a Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House and a former Ambassador

Nandita Haksar
is a human rights lawyer

The conflict between ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) and the military junta in Myanmar has created a serious humanitarian crisis, which the United Nations Security Council took up for discussion on July 3. Some experts on Myanmar have called for India to review its policy and establish channels with the EAOs to help the affected civilians. Should India review its Myanmar policy in view of the humanitarian crisis? Rajiv Bhatia and Nandita Haksar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Kallol Bhattacherjee**. Edited excerpts:

Why does India's policy towards Myanmar require course correction?

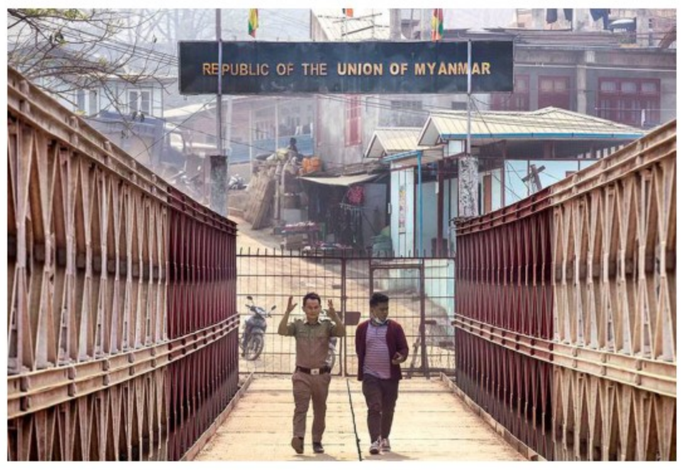
Nandita Haksar: Since October 2023, the ethnic armed groups and the PDF (People's Defence Force) in Myanmar have been coordinated in their effort to resist the military junta. These groups have been fighting the junta for many years, but this is the first time that they have been coordinated and have been able to hold at least 45% of the territory in Myanmar.

In this context, many people have called for a rethink (of India's policy) and said that we must have some dialogue with these EAOs because of two reasons. First, the conflict is directly affecting India – there is an influx of refugees here. Second, the EAOs are being supported by China. At the same time, China has good relations with the military junta. Apart from this, many of these resistance groups have actually taken control of all the trading routes that fall on the India-Myanmar, Myanmar-China, and Thailand-Myanmar border.

Are the EAOs so powerful that they deserve to be recognised by state actors such as India?

Rajiv Bhatia: Essentially, India's traditional policy towards Myanmar has had two main facets: one, to develop good cordial relations with the military junta and second, to keep supporting democratic forces and ensure the strengthening of democracy.

But in the last three years, Myanmar has changed beyond recognition. The military has not been able to impose its will. The people have rebelled against the military, but they have also not been able to prevail. In short, there is a strong military, political, diplomatic stalemate in Myanmar. That, I think, is the most forceful argument for some kind of a policy review and course correction. The second is that India's fundamental objective in Myanmar is to develop bilateral relations in all domains and make sure that Myanmar plays a useful role in its own 'Act East' policy. And the third is to have some kind of a balance between Indian and Chinese influences in Myanmar because that is essential for our national interest.



An Indian police officer and an Indian man walk on a bridge across the Tiau river along the India-Myanmar border in Champhai village in Mizoram. AP

The situation in Myanmar has become difficult. About half of country it is still under military rule and control, but the other half is considerably fragmented. I think the (Indian) government should consult national-level experts and scholars – people who have a clear view on the history and complexity of Myanmar; and neighbours such as Thailand, Bangladesh, Laos, and eventually even China, to ensure some kind of stability. To have stability in Myanmar is in the collective interest of the neighbourhood.

How compelling is the humanitarian situation in Myanmar to merit a review of the traditional policy?

NH: What Ambassador Bhatia said is that the situation is in a flux, so we cannot change course overnight. One way to test the waters is to start providing humanitarian assistance, at least in the border areas between India and Myanmar. India is directly affected, so we have a right to express our concern. The people in Myanmar don't have access to water, sanitary napkins, and anesthesia. Many young people are injured and require surgery to get their legs or arms amputated, but they have no access to medical facilities. Some of them have been able to cross over to Mizoram and go to Delhi from there but they are few in number. So, it would be well worth our while to explore ways in which we could offer real humanitarian assistance to the people and obtain Myanmar's goodwill that way.

In the past, we have not done that. It is true that India has been supporting the democracy movement. It is true that in the past, the National League for Democracy was allowed to open an office in Delhi. It is also true that the National Unity Government was allowed to open an office in Delhi, but it was not allowed to operate openly. Providing humanitarian assistance is the most non-controversial way of intervening in this situation. And then we can negotiate with the military rulers about rebuilding villages which have been bombed and which people cannot return to.

> One way to test the waters is to start providing humanitarian assistance, at least in the border areas between India and Myanmar.
> Nandita Haksar

RB: It is, of course, a complicated situation. In my view, there is still a legitimate government there, even though it does not control all the territory. So, if you are going to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs, in areas which are not under the government's control, they are not going to like it. Therefore, to address that problem, it is very important for our authorities to talk to the government in Naypyidaw and explain that it is in our traditional mutual interest for the people of Myanmar to be assisted if their own government cannot help them. It makes sense for India's humanitarian image.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had recently said that there is an international plan by some countries to create a Christian state in a part of Myanmar. Do such comments also highlight a requirement for India to closely engage with all sections of the Myanmar chess board?

RB: When a major neighbour begins to [become] fragmented, dangers of this kind could assume a clearer shape. She may have her own reasons to say what she said, although here in India we do not particularly see the creation of a Christian state within Myanmar. But what we do see is a kind of a Balkanisation. This is not in the interest of the people of Myanmar or in the interest of neighbours. That is why India has been closely associated with the Track 1.5 dialogue, which was initiated by Thailand, and in the Track 2 dialogue among scholars of the region, which is called the Bangkok process.

NH: I have been reading various blog posts and Facebook posts from the Northeast of the idea of a Kuki state which would include parts of Myanmar. That is why Ms. Hasina talked about it, because it was directly linked to her country and parts of India. This idea of a larger Kuki state has a direct impact on the Northeast. There are already some Kuki underground groups that are trying to control all the routes that border Manipur with this intention.

Ambassador Bhatia was referring to dialogue between India and Myanmar. But there is also the requirement of starting dialogue between the NUG and the military rulers.

NH: As of now, from the little I know about the NUG, they are thinking not so much about reconciliation with the army or the military junta – I don't think that is possible – but about the kind of federal union they want. Conversations are going on within the NUG about a charter on the kind of alliances they could have, so that they can have a federal structure which keeps the whole of Myanmar as it is today. I think we have an interest in that because if there is Balkanisation, it will have a direct impact on India. That is one area of dialogue. As far as dialogue with the military junta [is concerned], I don't think they are thinking about that. But there are some moves which I have been told have been made by certain Western powers of trying to achieve some reconciliation. That is something which I think the armed groups and the PDF and civil society would resist. But yes, there should at least be dialogue on the kind of federal structure they could have. In that dialogue, India can play a role because that dialogue is also taking place within India's borders.

What would be that the one piece of advice that you would like to give the newly elected Indian government? What should it do to avoid greater calamity in the bordering areas with Myanmar?

RB: The advice is fairly self-evident. On the one hand, our people are trying to be in close touch with the military government. We have invested in this relationship over two decades, so that has to be. At the same time, we have sufficient leverage with the military to convey to them that their own people are suffering and the instability in Myanmar is having a negative impact across the board and on a major neighbour such as India and therefore the two countries should keep exchanging views on how we can address the humanitarian situation. At the level of people, at the level of communities, and at the level of the governments, we have to convey our deep interest in the good health, stability, and prosperity of Myanmar.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Chronicling parliamentary proceedings over time

There have been many obvious and some imperceptible changes in Parliament

Sandeep Phukan

The first session of the 18th Lok Sabha was also the first session when the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) took over security of the Parliament complex. The agency, which is more used to guarding airports and key installations such as refineries, has replaced the Parliamentary Security Staff after a security breach last December. Dressed in dark trousers and contrasting light shirts, the CISF personnel were courteous and thorough with their airport-style frisking.

The security ring is not the only visible difference. The benches in the new Lok Sabha chamber are now more evenly occupied by members of the ruling National Democratic Alliance and the INDIA bloc. More than half the members (52%) are first-timers. There is an officially designated Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha after a decade. A combative Rahul Gandhi, occupying that chair, has marshalled the Opposition members in directing protests against the government, be it over the Manipur situation or the NEET exam paper leaks. Predictably, the decibel levels have been higher than in the previous two Lok Sabhas.

Many MPs of the ruling alliance have said that the scenes of Opposition MPs sloganeering while Prime Minister Narendra Modi was giving his reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's address to Parliament were unprecedented.

Not quite. Even with less fire power, this Opposition has done this earlier. So has the Bharatiya Janata Party when it was in the Opposition. I remember Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was barely audible in the Lok Sabha while introducing his Council of Ministers in 2004. There were constant protests from the BJP-led Opposition over the issue of inducting "tainted ministers." They focused especially on Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad Yadav for his role in the Bihar fodder scam.

The biggest change, of course, has been the building itself as parliamentary proceedings have shifted from the old circular edifice with round pillars to the newly designed triangle-shaped building last September. The old building is now called the Samvidhan Sadan – the place where the Constituent Assembly drafted, debated, and gave us our Constitution. For many journalists covering parliamentary proceedings, the old building meant easy access to MPs and ministers alike; in the new building, we are still trying to figure out the layout, including the path that leads to the press gallery.

The statue of Mahatma Gandhi that used to be opposite the main entrance to the old Parliament building has now been moved to the newly landscaped Prerna Sthal along with the statues of other icons such as B.R. Ambedkar. The original location of the Gandhi statue used to be the place where the Opposition would assemble for any kind of protest.

Another long-standing tradition that is fading is the practice of Parliamentary Affairs Ministers holding informal briefings with reporters to discuss government business and back-channel negotiations with the Opposition. These off-record briefings were often used to convey the government's position on issues that may have led to a stalemate.

Finally, reporting has not been the same post-COVID-19. Many of the curbs seen during the pandemic, such as restricting the number of journalists who could enter Parliament during sessions, continues even now. The annual passes of accredited journalists, allowing them a free entry to Parliament round the year, have become inoperative during sessions. Now, even those who hold annual passes are required to have special passes for the session. Every political party should realise that reporters who report landmark legislation are the nation's first chroniclers of history.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Falling like a house of cards

A bridge in Siwan district, Bihar, collapses. Ten incidents of bridge collapse have been reported in Bihar's Siwan, Saran, Madhubani, Araria, East Champaran and Kishanganj districts in over a fortnight. A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Bihar government to undertake a structural audit and set up an expert committee to identify bridges that can be either strengthened or demolished based on the findings. PTI

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 5, 1974

Imported farm pest destroyed in Delhi

New Delhi, July 4: Millions of threadlike worms from Australia that have never been recorded in India arrived last month at New Delhi airport in 13 huge crates. If these worms had escaped they would have infested the Indian soil, multiplied into billions in each acre of land, stunted crops and in the long run, played havoc with Indian agriculture. The worms, together with the exotic plants that harboured them, were burned and destroyed at the Delhi electric crematorium. Nevertheless, this manner in which the worm-loaded shipment came, and was handled in violation of international and domestic quarantine rules has highlighted how easily Indian agriculture could be affected, or even sabotaged.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 5, 1924

Heavy rains at Jamshedpur

Jamshedpur, July 1: Heavy rains are being witnessed throughout the week. The weather is threatening and it seems the downpour will continue for a few days. Waters are coming down the hills and the rivers are getting full. Three cases of lightning have since been reported in Tinplate, G Town and L Town.

From Page One

Six arrested for U.P. stampede

Mr. Mathur said that all 121 bodies have been identified and handed over to the families after completion of required formalities and post-mortem.

When asked if the preacher, said to be a former policeman whose real name is Suraj Pal, would be interrogated in the case, the official said that interrogation will be done if required during the course of investigation. "We got to know about a criminal case lodged against the preacher in Agra. There was acquittal in that case. We are trying to find out if there are previous criminal cases against him and his followers in different States and cities. We will keep interrogating and arresting people as and when new names and information crop up," Mr. Mathur said.

The official ended the press conference amid questions about the police neither arresting nor interrogating Bhole Baba even though he was the main speaker of the event.

Hemant Soren sworn in as Jharkhand CM

The State is expected to head to the polls to elect a new legislative Assembly in October this year. Mr. Hemant Soren claimed that a conspiracy had been hatched to oust him from the State's top post. "I was forced to step down from the post of Chief Minister after a conspiracy was hatched against me. They could not digest the fact that a tribal was leading the state. I have always struggled in my life and tried my level best to work for the people of Jharkhand," he posted on X before the oath-taking ceremony. "Once again, I am coming to serve you." Champai Soren, who resigned as Chief Minister on Wednesday, paving the way for his predecessor to return to the post, was present at the event and congratulated the new Chief Minister.

Mr. Hemant Soren had resigned from the post in January, shortly before his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate, after which Mr. Champai Soren was made the Chief Minister. The Jharkhand High Court granted him bail on June 28.

Labour Party projected to oust Sunak govt.

Britons faced soaring energy bills, inflation and a cost of living crisis, accompanied by a decline in public services including long wait times for doctors' appointments.

Consequently, Labour had fashioned its campaign around the theme of 'change'. "Vote change," Labour leader Keir Starmer said on Thursday. "Today, Britain's future is on the ballot," he wrote, posting a photograph of himself with his wife, Victoria Starmer on X.

Some 400 km north of Mr. Starmer's London constituency of Holborn and St. Pancras, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata Murty cast their votes.

"Vote Conservative to stop the Labour supermajority which would mean higher taxes for a generation," Mr. Sunak said on X, posting a photograph of himself and Ms. Murty on their way to a polling station.

In the last stretch of the campaign, Mr. Sunak has repeatedly accused Mr. Starmer and the Labour government of wanting to increase taxes. "You name it, they will tax it," he had said in a tense final debate with Mr. Starmer on June 26. Conservative politicians have also presented the election as a foregone conclusion, often using the term supermajority.

'India, U.S. share goals to prevent Ukraine conflict from spreading'

The two nations have held talks on what they can do together to hold Russia to account, says U.S. Ambassador warning Indian companies against violating global sanctions on Moscow; he says India is an important strategic partner of the U.S.

Dinakar Peri
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti says the two nations have an 'ambitious' agenda to expand cooperation. FILE PHOTO

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, the United States has had continuous communications with India about what the two can do "together" to hold Russia "to account", U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said on Thursday. India and the U.S. share the goals of "preventing this conflict from spreading, promoting stability in the Middle East, and efforts to establish a future Palestinian state", he said in an email interview to *The Hindu*.

Welcoming India's support in providing humanitarian assistance for the people of Ukraine, Mr. Garcetti said that the U.S. appreciated the strength of the strategic partnership with India to "coordinate and exchange perspectives" on such challenges.

"Since the first days of Russia's unjustified and unprovoked full-scale invasion of Ukraine, we have had continuous communication with our Indian counterparts about what we can do together to hold Russia to account and impose consequences for its war of conquest," Mr. Garcetti said, ahead of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) summit scheduled to be held from July 9 to 11.

Incidentally, on the eve of the NATO summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Russia on July 8 and 9 for the 22nd annual summit between the two countries.

"Going forward, we want to make sure that Ukraine is a success, that it stands strongly on its own feet militarily, economically, democratically, and that's exactly what we're enabling Ukraine to do," the U.S. envoy added.

Last week, in an interview to *The Hindu Business Line*, Mr. Garcetti had said that the U.S., together with dozens of allies, is standing up against the idea that one country should be able to take the land of another by brute force. "Let me hope that India will continue to recognise that principle and work with us to identify those companies that are fuelling the Russian war machine that has taken tens of thousands of lives," he had said.

Stating that India cares deeply about the people of Ukraine and has long-standing ties with the country, while also noting that India has a close relationship with the people and government of Russia, Mr. Garcetti hoped that India could continue to play a "constructive role" towards peace. At the same time, he also cautioned that any Indian companies that violate global sanctions "will have to be aware of the consequences they face in the international market."

Ambitious agenda

The U.S. Ambassador termed India as an important strategic partner of the U.S., noting that the two nations are pursuing an "ambitious" agenda to expand their cooperation in several areas. "We're working together on world-shaping initiatives that extend from the depths of the seabed to the furthest reaches of the stars," Mr. Garcetti said.

Quoting U.S. President Joe Biden, who had said that the U.S. and India share one of the "most consequential" relationships in the world, Mr. Garcetti said, "When we work together, our might is multiplicative – it's not just the U.S. plus India, it's the U.S. times India." This, he said, is playing out in many ways, including a "game-changing" initiative to co-produce jet engines; a trade relationship of more than $190 billion; and more Indian students coming to study in the U.S. than ever before.

Asked whether NATO had formally asked to set up a presence in India, Mr. Garcetti said, "There is no NATO presence in India, and I'm not aware of a request for one." However, he said, NATO members have an interest – like the rest of the world – in ensuring a free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific region, and noted that many NATO members are strong defence partners to India.

In May last year, the U.S. House Select Committee on the strategic competition between the U.S. and the Chinese Communist Party recommended strengthening the 'NATO-Plus' framework by including India into the alliance. This was rejected by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who said that the "NATO template does not apply to India".

Naidu meets Modi, seeks Central aid

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Thursday and discussed various issues concerning the State.

Mr. Naidu sought the Union government's handholding of the State finances in the short term, support in commissioning the Polavaram irrigation project, and comprehensive financial assistance for the construction of the government complex and trunk infrastructure in Amaravati.

He sought incentives for industrial development, consideration of an additional allocation under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment and support to the backward regions of the State on the lines of the Bundelkhand package, and the development of Dugarajapatnam port.

The Chief Minister highlighted that the State continues to grapple with the repercussions of the "unscientific and unjust bifurcation of 2014" and the miserable governance of the previous administration. He pointed out that the State was severely constrained by a lack of financial resources.

Army chief reviews 'prevailing security dynamics' in Jammu

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Safety watch: The Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, during his visit to the forward locations in Poonch. PTI

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), discussed the "prevailing security dynamics in the region" in a high-level joint security review meeting on the second day of his tour of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

The meeting, held at Nagrota and chaired by General Dwivedi, was attended by the top Army officers of the Northern Command, the White Knight Corps, the Chinar Corps and the Rising Star Corps, an Army spokesperson said.

The Army chief was also briefed by the J&K Director-General of Police, the Additional Director-General of the Central Reserve Police Force, the heads of intelligence agencies, and representatives of security forces from the Union Territory.

"The deliberations focused on the prevailing security dynamics in the region," the spokesperson said, adding that the security review underscored the imperative of "synergy and seamless coordination" between all armed forces and security agencies to maintain peace and stability in the region.

This series of review meetings by the Chief of the Army Staff comes in the wake of increased militancy in Jammu, which has seen five terror attacks this year. Nine pilgrims, four militants, and a CRPF jawan were left dead in these attacks.

Increased militancy

The focus areas of the visit remained the Pir Panjal valley, where the militant footprint has increased this year, according to official sources.

On Wednesday, General Dwivedi visited the District Police Headquarters in Poonch. "During the visit, General Dwivedi familiarised himself with the workings of the district police and the general area of Poonch," the spokesperson said.

Congress demands a White Paper on Agnipath scheme

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid the controversy over compensation to Agniveers who died in the line of duty, the Congress on Thursday demanded a "White Paper" on the Agnipath recruitment scheme for the armed forces.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, the Congress's ex-servicemen department chief, Colonel Rohit Chaudhry (retd), said the White Paper was essential for the country to know the ground situation.

Mr. Chaudhry said the family of "Agniveer" Ajay Singh from Ludhiana has got only ₹48 lakh from the Centre, while the Punjab government gave ₹1 crore. Another ₹50 lakh was insurance money from a private bank.

His remarks followed a clarification from the Army that the kin of Singh, who lost his life in the line of duty, had already been given ₹98.39 lakh of the due amount. The total amount would be ₹1.65 crore approximately.

The clarification came after Rahul Gandhi shared a video on X late on Wednesday, and alleged that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had "lied" in Parliament about the issue of compensation and demanded an apology for it. Mr. Gandhi also played a clip of the slain Agniveer's father, saying no assistance had been received.

"In Parliament, the Defence Minister gave incomplete information to the country, which created an atmosphere of doubt. As the main Opposition, it is our responsibility to raise the issue of discrimination being carried out with the Army and Agniveers. Rahul Gandhi*ji* says there should be no discrimination with the soldiers and martyrs of the country. This is not just a matter of martyred Agniveer Ajay Singh, but of the 13 Agniveers who have been martyred so far," Mr. Chaudhry said.

He said the government should bring a "White Paper" on the Agnipath scheme, the discrimination between Agniveers and regular soldiers and the assistance amount to be given to the families of "martyrs".

To quell Agniveer controversy, BJP fields Bhadauria

NEW DELHI
Facing criticism from the Opposition on the issue of compensation to the family of Agniveer Ajay Singh, who laid down his life in the line of duty, the Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday fielded Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria (retd) to quell the controversy. The retired Air Chief Marshal, who joined the BJP ahead of the recent Lok Sabha election, said that the Army had said that the process would be completed at the earliest. He also said that the Army should not be dragged into politics.

Jaishankar meets Wang Yi, says LAC must be respected

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. ANI

In their first such meeting since the Lok Sabha election, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council meet on Thursday.

Both sides stressed the importance of "mutual respect" in resolving the boundary issues that have frozen ties between them for the past four years.

Mr. Jaishankar told Mr. Wang that it was important that the "Line of Actual Control must be respected and peace and tranquillity in the border areas always ensured", said a statement by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) after the meeting, which lasted about an hour, and was held before the start of SCO Summit.

"The two Ministers agreed that the prolongation of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side. EAM highlighted the need to redouble efforts to achieve complete disengagement from the remaining areas in Eastern Ladakh and restore border peace and tranquillity in order to remove obstacles towards the return of normalcy in bilateral relations," the MEA said.

The two Ministers were meeting for the third time in the past 12 months.

Imphal residents slam PM's speech, demand 'tangible things' for peace

Abhinay Lakshman
IMPHAL

Burnt to ashes: Construction materials set on fire during the ethnic violence in Imphal East district. FILE PHOTO

Residents across Imphal on Thursday reacted sharply to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on the ethnic violence in Manipur with many terming the speech "inconsequential" and several others insisting that Mr. Modi's claims of normalcy returning, albeit slowly, in the State were "lies".

At the Khwairamband Market here, Ima R.K. Radheshana, 77, a vendor, asked, "Without doing anything at all, how will peace come?" She said "tangible things" need to be done to bring peace to the conflict-ridden State, but no such steps seem to have been taken so far.

Manipur has been strife-torn ever since the ethnic conflict between the valley-based Meitei people and the hills-based Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zo broke out in May last year. The violence has killed more than 220 people, injured thousands of others and internally displaced over 50,000.

In his most-detailed remarks on the issue yet, the Prime Minister on Wednesday told the Rajya Sabha that efforts were on to bring peace in the State and that "social tensions" in the State were deep-rooted.

Mr. Modi's remarks came weeks after Jiribam erupted in violence on June 6, taking the ethnic conflict to a district that had so far remained largely unaffected owing to efforts of the local police and security forces.

Reacting to Mr. Modi's remarks, residents across Imphal expressed deep anguish and anger. Onil Kshetrimayum, a human rights activist, said, "There is no difference between what he said last year and today. It is the same lip service and the same lack of seriousness to handle the situation."

Most other residents said the Prime Minister was forced to address the issue because of the speech given in Parliament a day ago by the Congress's Lok Sabha member from Inner Manipur, A. Bimol Akoijam. They said Mr. Modi spoke on the Manipur violence last year too when videos of a Meitei mob assaulting and parading naked Kuki-Zo women created outrage.

Jeevanlata Panjoubam, 52, a shop owner in Thangal Bazaar, said, "Last year too, he waited for too long and only spoke when the video of the Kuki women went viral. That clearly showed that he was seeing the issue from a biased point of view."

She said the Prime Minister should visit the State if he thinks it is slowly coming back to "normalcy" and see for himself.

APPEAL

Kumari Lavanya Patel daughter of Yugal Kishor Patel 4 years admitted in Mazumdar Shaw Medical Centre, is suffering from Thalassemia Major. The only curative treatment is bone marrow transplant. The cost of transplant at this hospital is approximately **Rs. 21,50,000**/-.

Please send donation however small and save the girl. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Lavanya Patel. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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PM's speech had misleading, wrong statements: MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress MP Manickam Tagore on Thursday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to point out "factually incorrect, inaccurate and misleading statements" made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP MP Anurag Thakur in the House.

Mr. Tagore, sources said, called on Mr. Birla and urged him to invoke provisions of Direction 115 (1) over their statements.

He flagged the statements made by Mr. Modi in his reply to the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address. He cited Mr. Modi's statement that the Congress made a "false" promise of giving ₹8,500 per month to women.

He challenged the Prime Minister's claim that the Congress vote share had gone down in 16 States in which it contested alone.

Terming Mr. Modi's remarks that "no bulletproof jackets [were provided] for the Army during the Congress's time" as "grossly misleading, the MP wrote, "There was a shortage of jackets, not that jackets were not there."

Challenging the claim that the Congress did not give fighter jets to the Army, he said, "We had Jaguar, MiG 29, SU-30, Mirage 2000."

He alleged inaccuracies in Mr. Thakur's July 1 speech. Noting that that the BJP MP had claimed that the Army was not given arms and fighter jets when the Congress ruled the country, he wrote, "We had Jaguar, MiG 29, SU-30, Mirage 2000... We had nuclear bombs, missiles like Agni, Prithvi, Aakash, Nag, Trishul and later Brahmos." Challenging remarks that Prime Minister Modi has not taken a single holiday, he asked, "Which category of leave is taken for election campaigns?"

Cong. will not ally with AAP in Haryana, Delhi polls: Ramesh

Party general secretary says it will contest as part of INDIA in the Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly elections; he adds there is no one formula the bloc will follow for the State elections

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

There does not appear to be much scope for an alliance between the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for the Assembly elections in Haryana and Delhi, but the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) will fight elections together in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Thursday.

In an interview with PTI, Mr. Ramesh said there was no one formula INDIA would follow for the State elections. The bloc will fight together in States where Congress leaders and other alliance partners agree to such an understanding, he said.

"There is no INDIA *janbandhan* in Punjab. In Haryana, we had given one seat to the AAP in the Lok Sabha election but I don't think that INDIA *janbandhan* will be there for Assembly election. In Delhi, the AAP itself has said that the INDIA *janbandhan* will not be there for the Assembly election," Mr. Ramesh said.

> We are going to be aggressive... we want a debate, we want a discussion but we will not be allowed to be bulldozed like the way we have been over the last 10 years
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress general secretary

The Congress and the AAP had fought the Lok Sabha election together in Delhi, while they contested separately in Punjab.

Mr. Ramesh said, "In the context of West Bengal also, I had said that the INDIA bloc is for Lok Sabha election but in States where the circumstances are such that our leaders of the State and leaders of our alliance partners want, the alliance will remain. In Maharashtra, the alliance will be there with the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (SCP). In Jharkhand, we have an alliance with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha."

Last month, the AAP's Delhi State convener, Gopal Rai, had said his party's alliance with the Congress was only for the Lok Sabha election, and hinted that the ruling party would go solo in next year's Assembly election.

'United in Parliament'

Mr. Ramesh said the INDIA bloc partners were united in Parliament and augmented by the Biju Janata Dal in the Rajya Sabha.

"The YSRCP has its compulsions. Their soul is with INDIA but their body is with Mr. Narendra Modi. We are going to be aggressive, we are going to be proactive, we want a debate, we want a discussion but we will not be allowed to be bulldozed like the way we have been over the past 10 years," Mr. Ramesh said.

Jharkhand, Haryana, and Maharashtra are slated to go to the polls later this year, while the Assembly election in Delhi will be held early next year.

INBRIEF

Rajnath, Australian Minister discuss closer collaboration

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a telephone conversation with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles on Thursday. The discussions focused on closer collaboration between the two countries in the Indo-Pacific. "We reviewed a range of issues pertaining to defence cooperation and discussed closer collaboration between India and Australia in the Indo-Pacific," Mr. Singh said on X. Both Ministers noted the transformative progress in defence cooperation under the comprehensive strategic partnership and appreciated the momentum achieved in the ties.

Kirodi Lal Meena steps down as Rajasthan Minister

Keeping his vow to step down if the Bharatiya Janata Paty (BJP) lost any of the seven Lok Sabha seats under his responsibility, Rajasthan Minister Kirodi Lal Meena has resigned from the State Cabinet. While the resignation was yet to be accepted, the BJP high command summoned Mr. Meena to New Delhi on Friday in an apparent bid to sort out the issue. Mr. Meena, 72, holds the Agriculture, Rural Development, Disaster Management and Relief, and Public Grievances portfolios as the Cabinet Minister. Mr. Meena said he would explain the reasons for putting in his papers to the party leadership.

NHRC team meets woman beaten up in public in Chopra

A National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) team visited Chopra in Uttar Dinajpur of West Bengal on Thursday and met the woman survivor of the recent flogging incident. The four-member team led by a senior officer visited the area for a spot enquiry, an NHRC official said. The prime accused in the case, Tajimul Islam, alias JCB, was arrested by the police on June 30, hours after the video of the public flogging went viral. Tajimul is considered close to the Trinamool. The NHRC on July 1 issued a press statement, saying the agency had taken *suo motu* cognisance of the reported beating of a couple in full public view.

'BJD continues to be equidistant from NDA, INDIA bloc'

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) continues to be "equidistant from the NDA and the INDIA bloc," its parliamentary party leader Sasmit Patra said in an interview with *The Hindu*. He insisted that there be no confusion about the party's stand, and the INDIA bloc could not appropriate the Opposition space. Each political party was free to adopt its independent position, he said.

Coming at the back of a bitter election campaign between the BJP and the BJD in Odisha, where the latter could not win a single Lok Sabha seat and the 24-year rule of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik ended, the BJD walked out of the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday during the Prime Minister's address.

The party had also joined the INDIA protest in the House on June 28 on the NEET and NET controversy.

Mr. Patra said that most observers were missing out on the nuance, that the BJD walked out before the INDIA bloc staged a walkout protesting against the Centre's indifference to various demands made by Odisha.

Sasmit Patra

"We continue to be equidistant from both the NDA and the INDIA bloc. Let there be no confusion in anyone's mind. As far as our parliamentary strategy is concerned, earlier too we extended issue-based support keeping in mind the larger interest of the nation, irrespective of whichever government is in power," he said.

Mr. Patra also pointed out that while the BJD protested against three farm laws because it felt that these were detrimental to farmers' interests, it supported the government in the case of the Citizenship Amendment Act Bill based on its merit.

Artificial binary

The BJD leader protested against the artificial binary being drawn in Parliament. "There is a misconception that Opposition means INDIA bloc alone. Let's not appropriate Opposition as the INDIA bloc. There are different Opposition parties. Why is there pressure that Parliament should run on binary. Can't there be different stances of different political parties," Mr. Patra asked, giving examples of the TDP and the JD (U) – both the parties have been demanding special category status for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, respectively, a stance not shared by the BJP.

Mr. Patra hoped that the government would not harden its heart and allow for debates instead of opting for adjournments in the upcoming Budget session. He called the government's decision not to heed to the Opposition's demand for a debate on NEET as a lost opportunity.

"Why is the government not willing to come and debate the issue? It would have been a good opportunity for the government to actually come before people to say that we have nothing to hide instead of browbeating. It has only scored a self-goal," Mr. Patra said.

NC starts work on Assembly poll manifesto

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The two-day marathon meeting of the National Conference in Srinagar, the first since the Lok Sabha election, that concluded on Thursday discussed the party's manifesto for the coming Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir; improving its public outreach; and freedom for jailed youth.

Nearly 60 leaders exchanged ideas with the party's working committee, including party president Farooq Abdullah and vice-president Omar Abdullah. The meeting came against the backdrop of the party's performance in the Lok Sabha election, in which it won two of the three seats in the Kashmir Valley. The party had led in 34 of the 54 Assembly segments in the three Lok Sabha constituencies, it says.

The manifesto committee is headed by Abdul Rahim Rather. Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, MP, is collating suggestions on public issues and aspirations online to be added in the manifesto.

"While we will be taking suggestions through a number of physical interactions, I would welcome any productive and progressive suggestions through the online platforms," Mr. Mehdi said. The manifesto will be finalised within 45 days, sources said. They told *The Hindu* that the structural changes would include the creation of party posts.

The leaders discussed steps to get jailed youth, especially those arrested after August 5, 2019, shifted to Kashmir from jails elsewhere "followed by campaigns for their release", sources said.

West Bengal Assembly Speaker summons special session

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee said on Thursday that "everything is not in the hands of the Governor", and called a special session of the House on Friday.

The Speaker's move comes amid the impasse over the swearing-in of two Trinamool Congress MLAs-elect. Governor C.V. Ananda Bose had invited the two MLAs to the Raj Bhavan for the oath-taking ceremony, but they refused it citing procedural norms. They began a protest demanding that the Governor administer the oath in the Assembly.

"You can't just force everything down our throats; there are rules, regulations, and constitutional norms," the Speaker said.

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2423/MSETCL/CO/Projects/T/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001200)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Establishment of 220/22kV GIS Kaman Substation on turnkey basis, Dist. Palghar under Vashi Zone in Maharashtra"

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in**

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 02.07.2024.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

SAGARMALA PORT-LED PROSPERITY

V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
General Administration Department
Tuticorin-628 004.

GAD-EST10ESTC(EST)/8/2023-GADSrDS(4389) Date: 05.07.2024

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority invites applications for the following:-

Engagement on contractual basis:

Sl. No.	Name of the Position	No. of Positions	Discipline /Fields	Consolidated monthly remuneration
1.	Chief Consultant	1	Finance	Rs. 1,00,000/-
2.	Senior Consultant	2		Rs. 80,000/-
3.	Professional Intern	3		Rs. 30,000/-
	Total	6		

For, details visit VOC Port's website at www.vocport.gov.in (careers).
Last date for the receipt of applications is **25.07.2024**

Sd
SECRETARY(I/C)
V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-04 of 2024-25, Letter No.1469 /Dtd.02.07.2024

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : Buildings (DMF)
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-04 of 2024-25	15.07.2024 11:00 AM	05.08.2024 5:00 PM	03.08.2024 5:00 PM	06.08.2024 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Control)
Chief Construction Engineer (I/C), Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.

O-87 : DIPR-25133/11/0006/2425

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM – 22 / (फोन नं. / Ph. No. 0471 - 2564568 / 5669 / 4537 / 4545).

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद-दर निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।
On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

1. टर्ल्स, वीएसएससी तुंबा में टीओएमडी के लिए परिवहन कॉम्प्लेक्स (भारी वाहन अनुरक्षण बै) का निर्माण (सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य) / Construction of Transport Complex (Heavy Vehicle Maintenance bay) for TOMD at TERLS, VSSC, Thumba (Civil & PH works)/ **NIT No. VSSC/CMG/C01/07/2024-25 Dt. 03.07.2024 (पी.ए.सी./P.A.C.: ₹ 465.00 लाख/Lakhs)**

डाउनलोड करने की अवधि/Period for downloading: दिनांक 04.07.2024, 16.00 बजे/hrs से/to दिनांक 18.07.2024, 23.00 बजे/hrs

योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.in/isro or www.isro.gov.in.

Sd/- ग्रुप निदेशक / Group Director, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी / CMG, VSSC

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
SUPERINTENDENT, MATHURADAS MATHUR HOSPITAL, JODHPUR
(Attached with Dr. S.N. Medical College Jodhpur)

Tel No.:- 0291-2438655 E-mail:- mdmh.tender@gmail.com
No.:- 11349 Date : 28/06/24

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 01(2024-25)

Online Bids are invited from eligible bidders i.e. Manufacturer/Authorized Distributors/Dealers to provide various Items & Services at Mathura Das Mathur Hospital Jodhpur attached to Dr. S.N. Medical College Jodhpur as per tender conditions. Tenders are to be submitted duly digitally signed in electronic format only on website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.** The tender documents may be downloaded from above mentioned website. The tender document may also be seen on **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Item No.	Particulars	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	UBN NO	Bid Document Download & Submission end at 03:00PM on Date mention below	Technical Bid Opening at 01:30 PM Mention below
1.	PROVIDE JOB BASS HIGHLY SKILLED, SKILLED, UNSKILLED AND SEMI SKILLED LABOUR WORK (2YEARS)	3051.00	SMC2425SLRC00014	22/07/2024	23/07/2024
2.	SUPPLY OF ECHO MACHINE (2 YEARS)	50.00	SMC2425GLRC00015	22/07/2024	23/07/2024

Superintendent
Mathura Das Mathur Hospital
Jodhpur

DIPR/C/5234/2024

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION,
CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR
E-Tender Notice 2024-2025
Tender Notice

E-Tender in B-1 form for the following work invited by Municipal Administrator, Municipal Corporation, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Phone No. 0240-2333536-40) from Government Registered Contractors / Companies / Firms of Appropriate Category.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount Rs.
1	Construction of C.C. Road at Various Places Under Scheme "Development of Basic Amenities in CSMC Area (Under Govt. Fund) Package E-1.	2,37,87,894.00
2	Construction of C.C. Road at Various Places Under Scheme "Development of Basic Amenities in CSMC Area (Under Govt. Fund) Package E-2.	2,38,47,149.00
3	Construction of C.C. Road at Various Places Under Scheme "Development of Basic Amenities in CSMC Area (Under Govt. Fund) Package W-1.	2,43,16,788.00
4	Construction of C.C. Road at Various Places Under Scheme "Development of Basic Amenities in CSMC Area (Under Govt. Fund) Package W-2.	2,42,95,448.00

Details regarding the tender for the said works will be available on http://mahatenders.gov.in From. dt 04/07/2024. Administrator, Municipal Corporation, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar reserves all the rights to reject / cancel any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
City Engineer
CSMC, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

INBRIEF

Plea in SC seeks structural audit of all bridges in Bihar

A lawyer has moved the Supreme Court, highlighting over 10 separate incidents of bridge collapses across Bihar since 2022, while seeking a structural audit of recently completed, under-construction and old bridges in the State. The petition, filed by advocate Brajesh Singh, urged the top court to set up an expert committee to identify unsafe bridges in the State. "The total flood-affected area in the State is 68,800 sq. km which is 73.06% of its total geographical area... Hence, such routine accrual of incidents of falling bridges in Bihar is more disastrous as the lives of people at large are at stake," the petition said.

Gangster Subodh Singh remanded in CID custody

Bihar-based gangster Subodh Singh, accused of being involved in multiple crimes across West Bengal, was remanded in the custody of the West Bengal Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for 14 days on Wednesday, till July 17. He has been suspected of running a criminal network from inside Patna's Beur jail, and is accused in a slew of criminal cases in West Bengal, including heists, extortion, as well as the alleged murder of BJP youth leader Manish Shukla in 2020. Singh's alleged accomplice Roshan was also brought to West Bengal from Patna's Beur jail and produced in a Barrackpore court on Thursday. The court remanded him in 14 days of police custody.

Gangster Abu Salem moved to Nashik Central Prison

Gangster Abu Salem, the main accused in the 1993 Mumbai blast case, was transferred from the Taloja Central Prison to Nashik Central Prison on Thursday before his plea in the Bombay High Court could be heard. Salem had approached the High Court challenging an order of a Special Court that had rejected his petition against his transfer from Taloja Central Prison in Navi Mumbai to the Nashik Central Prison. His plea had cited threat to life if he is transferred to another prison. Prison authorities have said that Taloja Prison is in disrepair and needed urgent repairs and hence the transfer was required.

Dead snake found in mid-day meal in Maharashtra's Sangli

After reports of a tiny dead snake found in a packet distributed under the mid-day meal scheme in western Maharashtra's Sangli district, Congress leader and former State Minister Vishwajeet Kadam raised the issue in the Assembly on Thursday during the monsoon session and demanded a detailed probe. The parent of a child in an anganwadi in Sangli had taken the food packet home on Monday and found the snake upon opening it. Mr. Kadam, who represents the Palus-Kadegaon constituency, said, "We are playing with the lives of children and mothers, the government must take cognisance of such a dire situation and punish whoever is guilty."

Assam floods: 6 more dead as toll since May mounts to 52

At least seven districts of Arunachal Pradesh cut off due to landslips; eight persons, including two children, killed in rain-induced landslips and floods in Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

At least six persons, including two children, drowned on Thursday, taking the death toll in two waves of floods in Assam since May to 52.

Officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said the water levels of the Brahmaputra and other rivers dipped marginally on Thursday, but the flood situation continued to be grim with 21.13 lakh forced to abandon their homes.

More than 39,300 people from the flood-hit areas have taken shelter across 247 relief camps. "Western Assam's Dhubri and northern Assam's Darrang are the worst affected districts where 6.49 lakh and 1.9 lakh people have been displaced," an ASDMA spokesperson said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the breaching of at least eight strategic embankments worsened the flood situation, which was caused largely by heavy rainfall in Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan.

The impact has been felt in the 1,307.49 sq. km Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve where the floodwaters killed 31 animals – 30 hog deer and one otter pup.

Forest guards, however, rescued 82 animals, a two-month-old rhino among them. "The situation, however, improved in the last 24 hours with 95 of the 233 anti-poaching camps now under water up to 5 feet. The number of camps inundated on Wednesday was 179," a park official said.

Heavy rainfall also caused havoc in other northeastern States. Officials in Arunachal Pradesh said at least seven districts in the central and eastern parts of the State had been cut off due to landslides caused by flash floods. The affected districts include Lohit, Changlang, Anjaw, and East Siang.

During the last 48 hours, eight persons, including two children, were killed in rain-induced landslides and floods in Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Villagers with their cattle and belongings move to safety in Kamrup district of Assam on Thursday. ANI

Relief measures

The Chief Minister on Thursday said the State's flood situation was "under control" but everything depended on the weather conditions during the next few days.

The affected people are being provided relief and plans are being drawn up for their rehabilitation along with the repair of damaged infrastructure, he said.

"The situation is under control but everything depends on the weather. If there is no further rain in Arunachal Pradesh and South Tibet, the situation will improve, but it might worsen if there is more rainfall," Mr. Sarma stated.

(With PTI inputs)

50 NEET candidates move Supreme Court against re-test

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The fresh petition has been filed days before a top court Bench is scheduled to hear the NEET case on July 8

Over 50 candidates have moved the Supreme Court to stop the Centre and the National Testing Agency from taking any steps to cancel the undergraduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG), 2024 which was riddled with allegations of paper leaks and other irregularities.

The NEET-UG, held on May 5, is facing a whirlwind of controversy with the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) arresting several persons.

The petitioners said legal action should be taken against the perpetrators of foul play, but that should not affect students who have worked hard for several years for the test.

'Infringement of RTE'

"It would not only be unreasonable and harsh for the honest and hardworking students but also would lead to the infringement of the Right to Education and therefore violative of Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution," the petition said.

Medical aspirants have to pass NEET to get admissions in colleges across the country. NEET-UG 2024 was held across 4,750 centres on May 5 and around 24 lakh candidates appeared in the exam.

Many petitions

The fresh plea by 56 students has been filed days before a top court Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud is scheduled to hear the NEET case on July 8. Over 25 separate petitions seeking relief, which includes re-test, would be heard by the three-judge Bench.

These petitioners have alleged irregularities such as students receiving different marks on their scorecards compared with their OMR sheets; unprecedented inflation of cut-off and average marks resulting in an unprecedented 67 candidates achieving a perfect score of 720/720; six of these toppers coming from the same exam centre in Haryana; students having scored 718 and 719 marks, which is "statistically questionable"; and no disclosure of criteria adopted for grant of compensatory marks for loss of time.

NCERT textbooks delay issue: Minister holds review meeting

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held a detailed review meeting on the progress of textbook development with senior Ministry officials on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, School Education and Literacy, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Director and Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

The meeting comes a day after *The Hindu* reported that students of Class 6 have been left without textbooks as there has been a substantial delay in receiving the new science, maths and social sciences books from the National Syllabus and Textbook Committee (NSTC) by the NCERT. Even as schools reopened for the new academic year in July, students of Class 6 do not have access to textbooks for the three subjects.

An official statement from the Education Ministry said that for the academic year 2024-25, new and engaging textbooks would be introduced for Classes 3 and 6. "Textbook development work is in the final phase and nine textbooks for grades three and six are already available. The remaining eight will be available very soon," the statement said.

Mr. Pradhan also reviewed the capacity building undertaken for the teachers of Classes 3 and 6 who will use these new textbooks.

Brahmaputra's lone female gharial's long wait for a mate could end soon

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

A lone female gharial has temporarily overshadowed the one-horned rhino in the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in eastern Assam.

Wildlife officials and specialists are not sure how this gharial came to inhabit a stretch of the Brahmaputra within the national park. But they are certain that the reptile, presumed to be an adult by its size, is the key to repopulating the river with gharials.

Distinguished from other crocodilians by its elongated snout, the gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) was believed to have been wiped out from the Brahmaputra river system during the 1950s, though there were claims of sightings in the 1990s. The female gharial was first spotted in 2021 within the Biswanath Wildlife Division of the 1,307.49-sq. km Kaziranga.

A comeback: Gharials were believed to have been wiped out from the Brahmaputra river system during 1950s. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The gharial, now 2.55 metres in length, was recorded twice, 500 metres apart, in one of the three priority habits chosen during a 10-day survey of aquatic reptiles along the Brahmaputra in January.

Teams of the Turtle Survival Alliance Foundation India (TSAFI), an NGO specialising in reptiles, and the Assam Forest Department surveyed the Brahmaputra on a 160-km stretch from the Kaliabhomora bridge in the west to the Kamalabari Ghat in Majuli beyond the eastern edge of the Biswanath division.

The female gharial was found to be the only one of its kind moving between a "sandy shoreline" and a "sandbar with a shoreline water depth of 4.5 metres".

"We do not know much about gharials in the Brahmaputra but we do know that this female has been lonely for more than three years and is close to the size of an adult ready to breed," Sushmita Kar, TSAFI's project director in the northeast, told *The Hindu*.

One of the 10 recommendations in the report was the "high-priority" reintroduction of gharials in the Brahmaputra.

Kaziranga's Director Sonali Ghoshsaid the tiger reserve had the right conditions for a gharial breeding programme.

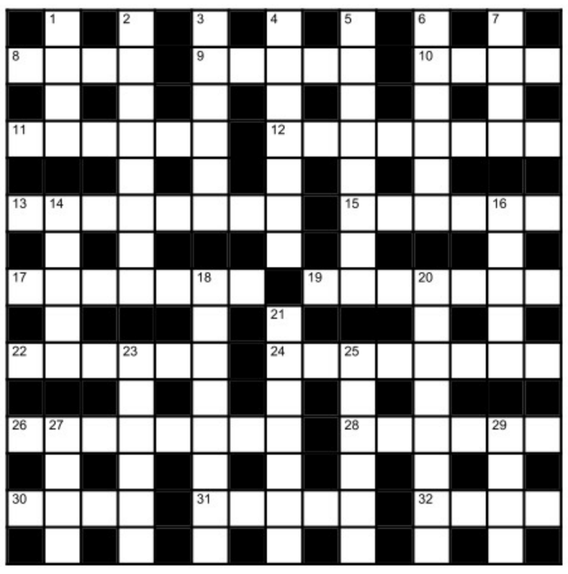
If the reintroduction proposal is approved, the reptiles are likely to be brought from the Kukrail gharial breeding centre near Lucknow.

TH CROSSWORD + 14219

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 After losing sense initially, flashback is 50% (4)
9 Cart returning on king's path (5)
10 Drink with first flier from 28, right? (4)
11 Claim aluminium limb excels in the beginning (6)
12 Rolls joint to cover "Peacemaker" Colt in meeting place (8)
13 Astronaut paces about before meeting administrative NASA heads (8)
15 A doctor with one foot's aimlessly floating (6)
17 Kelvin leaves wickerwork containers containing small dogs (7)
19 Bird disturbed pile near container (7)
22 Commanding officer gets approval to initiate expense for starters and biscuits (6)
24 No! Canada can discard one container disturbing snake (8)
26 Game requiring path having permit (8)
28 Flier wrongly let another flier (6)
30 Eye problem? Pen letter! (4)
31 Short NCO changes gears (5)
32 Royal Air Force model for rudimentary boat (4)

Down

1 Cry "Whiskey" and become sick (4)
2 Infringements of boundary markers (8)
3 Perhaps burn saint having a lot of paper (6)
4 Small magazine covers John playing Chinese game (3-4)
5 Wrongly nicks ear to get treatment for dermis (8)
6 One stopping nuisance at bar ordered to protect 7 (6)
7 Nothing for Japanese fighter (4)
14 A plot devised for a philosopher (5)
16 German lady starting to discover hoax (5)
18 Essay: "Cure is expensive at first" (8)
20 Moving mortise? Yes, that's rigid geometric transformation (8)
21 Forced Irish Republican Army to produce wine (7)
23 King and queen give shelter to sick assassin (6)
25 Drunk MBA went ahead and walked slowly (6)
27 Selects optional practical training scheme for beginners (4)
29 Went away from port (4)

SUDOKU

		4						
	9					1	6	5
		5	6	7	9			4
			5	1		3		
	2		3		7		8	
		3		6	2			
4			7	9	1	2		
7	5	2					1	
						6		

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	7	8	1	3	9	6	2	4
2	3	9	4	6	7	1	8	5
4	6	1	5	2	8	7	9	3
3	2	4	8	5	6	9	7	1
8	1	7	2	9	3	4	5	6
6	9	5	7	1	4	2	3	8
7	8	6	3	4	2	5	1	9
9	5	2	6	8	1	3	4	7
1	4	3	9	7	5	8	6	2

FAITH

Satsang, a great blessing

Whenever a *satsang* happens, it is a great blessing for the attendees. Adi Sankara says, *"satsangatve nissangatvam, nissangatve nirmohatvam, nirmohatve nischalatattvam, nischalatatve jivanmukti* (through the company of the wise there comes non-attachment, freedom from delusion, resulting in self knowledge)." Andal also emphasises this when she says, '*Koodi irundhu kulirdhelor*' (experiencing God). Listening to discourses on God is in itself a huge blessing, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan in a discourse.

Sage Suka informs King Parikshit, who is cursed with death within seven days' time, that listening to the learned expositions on Bhagawan is a rare blessing, adding that only those whose ancestors in the last seven generations had performed dharmic deeds are likely to be blessed with being part of a *satsang*. Yudhishthira, the epitome of dharma, spent time with Krishna, but was not blessed enough to be in a *satsang* with Him. Similarly, Arjuna. However, Parikshit was blessed, says Suka, who proceeds to discourse on Bhagavatham, instructing the king on God, His approachability, His sporting test of bhaktas and His attainability. Do not the Gopikas sing, "*Sravana Mangalam sreemtaha hitam*? (Krishna, you will give us darshan, you will come running to us when we listen to your history)."

INBRIEF

LIC raises shareholding in IDFC First Bank to 2.68%

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) said its shareholding in IDFC First Bank increased after the insurer acquired 18,60,34,900 shares at ₹80.63 apiece in a private placement offer by the lender. From 0.20% of the pre-issue paid-up capital, the shareholding has increased to 2.68% of the post issue paid-up capital of the bank, LIC said in a filing on Thursday. In terms of number of shares, the holding has increased from a little more than 1.42 crore to more than 20.02 crore.

Dr. Reddy's, Sun Pharma recalling a drug each in U.S.

Dr. Reddy's is recalling 13,752 bottles of insomnia drug Eszopiclone Tablets, USP 1mg CIV, manufactured at Bachupally in Hyderabad from the U.S. market. Failed impurities/degradation specifications is the reason, the U.S. FDA said. Sun Pharma is recalling 2,088 vials of cancer drug Decitabine for Injection 50mg per vial. The FDA cited deviation in manufacturing standards: 'out of specification for total aerobic microbial count test for unfiltered bulk decitabine'.

Shriram Life Insurance unveils deferred annuity plan

Shriram Life Insurance has introduced an 'affordable' annuity plan that balances long-term savings growth with insurance protection. Individuals aged 40-75 can purchase Shriram Life Deferred Annuity Plan, which offers tax benefits and steady retirement income. The minimum premium starts at ₹60,000 a year. If the death of the annuitant occurs when the policy is in force, the death benefit, i.e. 125% of the purchase price, will be paid to the nominees, the insurer said.

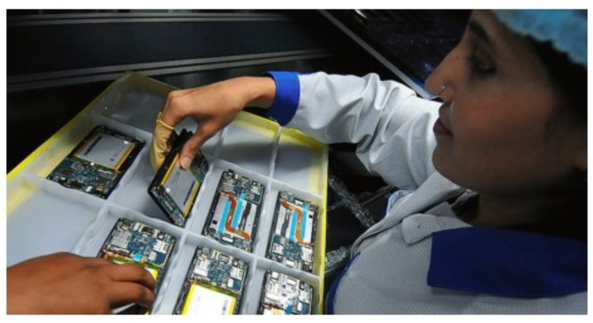
Industry Ministry pushes for lower duties on input imports

Current high tariffs on inputs for items used in electronics, other sectors seen as nullifying gains from the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme vis-a-vis competitors like China and Vietnam

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Commerce and Industry Ministry has made a pitch for reducing high tariffs on the import of inputs for electronics and other sectors, responding to industry concerns that tariff-induced costs will nullify gains from the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme vis-a-vis rivals like China and Vietnam.

However, there is no proposal to reconsider the restrictions placed on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows from countries sharing land borders with India through Press Note 3, a query from *The Hindu*.


Added push: The Confederation of Indian Industry too mooted lower duties on electronic components. FILE PHOTO

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in a recent report on electronics production, said the FDI curbs had outlived their utility, and urged their reconsideration with "adequate guardrails". The CII had also mooted lower duties on components.

"The DPIIT view is that duty inversion and the high import tariffs on inputs will need to be phased out, not only for electronics but perhaps on other sectors as well," Mr. Singh stressed.

'Divesting 49% CPSE stakes can yield ₹11.5 lakh cr.'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

At current market capitalisation, the Centre can raise ₹11.5 lakh crore from disinvestment of Central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) while retaining a majority stake in them, Care Edge Ratings said in a report.

However, the rating agency doesn't expect a hard push on disinvestment as there is no urgency to do so as the fiscal situation is comfortable with strong non-tax receipts such as dividends from the RBI and CPSEs.

"We believe the government will stick to the 2024-25 [Interim Budget] target of miscellaneous capital receipts, which includes divestment, of ₹500 billion," it said, adding Shipping Corporation of India's divestment 'looks likely' in FY25.

CARE Edge economists calculated the divestment potential by analysing the data of 59 major listed CPSEs and 15 public sector banks and insurance firms where the government holds more than 51% stake.

The estimate is a little more than twice the total divestment of ₹5.2 lakh crore made since 2014.

"Of this, CPSEs could contribute about ₹5 lakh crore, while PSBs and insurance firms adding ₹6.5 lakh crore," Care Edge said, identifying Indian Railway Finance Corporation, Hindustan Aeronautics, Coal India and ONGC as the top companies in terms of "divestment potential mathematically."

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,050	0.07
US Dollar	83.50	-0.01
Gold	73,080	0.73
Brent oil	87.57	1.47

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3144.25	-46.70
Adani Ports	1503.65	-7.00
Apollo Hosp	6225.05	32.35
Asian Paints	2934.90	9.35
Axis Bank	1280.90	0.90
Bajaj Auto	9460.85	38.45
Bajaj Finserv	1585.70	-8.45
Bajaj Finance	7107.05	-151.75
Bharti Airtel	1423.05	3.20
BPCL	303.00	-3.60
Britannia Ind	5426.25	-22.85
Cipla	1480.75	-3.00
Coal India	489.55	4.60
Divis Lab	4544.05	-15.10
Dr Reddys Lab	6479.35	53.45
Eicher Motors	4689.50	-2.80
Grasim Ind	2734.85	-7.50
HCL Tech	1522.35	41.35
HDFC Bank	1727.15	-41.50
HDFC Life	603.95	7.80
Hero MotoCorp	5558.35	-21.40
Hindalco	691.85	0.20
Hind Unilever	2495.95	-14.40
ICICI Bank	1233.00	31.40
IndusInd Bank	1442.85	-12.65
Infosys	1650.65	23.25
ITC	429.05	0.75
JSW Steel	944.35	-6.05
Kotak Bank	1833.85	23.15
L&T	3573.30	-41.05
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5459.50	-6.90
M&M	2902.80	24.85
Maruti Suzuki	12089.60	-34.05
NestleIndia	2545.15	-6.35
NTPC	372.95	0.30
ONGC	277.05	2.35
PowerGrid Corp	335.00	-0.15
Reliance Ind	3108.05	3.20
SBI Life	1507.75	11.40
State Bank	839.30	-0.65
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2833.75	-16.70
Sun Pharma	1557.90	23.95
TataConsumerProduct	1135.20	-11.15
Tata Motors	998.20	22.55
Tata Steel	176.29	-0.08
TCS	4020.95	55.70
Tech Mahindra	1459.15	-20.65
Titan	3336.00	-24.25
UltraTech Cement	11760.05	-112.05
Wipro	530.70	-8.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 04

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.29	83.61
Euro	89.96	90.31
British Pound	106.27	106.68
Japanese Yen (100)	51.70	51.90
Chinese Yuan	11.46	11.50
Swiss Franc	92.50	92.86
Singapore Dollar	61.63	61.87
Canadian Dollar	61.13	61.39
Malaysian Ringitt	17.68	17.76
Australian Dollar	56.04	56.25

Source:Indian Bank

GST is still far from simple: former CEA Subramanian

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

You should just have one cess rate, one standard rate and one low rate, says the former CEA

Revenues from the seven-year old Goods and Services Tax (GST) had not lived up to expectations, having attained pre-GST levels only now, and the goal of a 'Good and Simple Tax' remained elusive, former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian averred, terming the lack of critical data such as refunds a challenge.

Blaming the poor revenue performance to a "rate-cutting spree" by the GST Council between late 2017 and 2019, the economist said both the Centre and States were complicit. "The focus was on collections, because refunds were not published and we were looking at the wrong number.. had the refunds data been published, we would have been much more careful about rate cuts," he reckoned.

"In February, the government started releasing net GST collection numbers and has now stopped publishing it again. Because we are not getting refunds data, we are under the impression that revenues are doing very well," Mr. Subramanian said on Thursday at a seminar on seven years of GST hosted by the Centre for Social and Economic Progress.

'Monstrous structure'

Terming the multiple cess rates and the GST rate structure 'monstrous', he mooted the need to try and simplify the GST rates as much as possible.

"You should just have one cess rate, one standard rate and one low rate," the former CEA stressed.

LIC ropes in A.T. Kearney for agency revamp

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) said it had roped in strategy consulting firm A.T. Kearney for agency transformation project.

Besides a review of the existing agency framework of LIC, the project will involve revamping the agency operations at the branch, division and zonal levels with an aim to establish global best practices, the insurer, which has about 14 lakh agents, said on Thursday.

Muthoot Finance selected for FATF report

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Muthoot Finance said it was the only Indian NBFC to be selected for The Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Mutual Evaluation report 2023-24.

"This selection from FATF is a significant achievement for us and is testimony to Muthoot Finance's legacy as a trusted brand not just in India, but globally," Muthoot Finance MD George Alexander said.

FATF is a global agency formed in 1989 to develop policies to combat money laundering, terrorism financing and several other significant threats to soundness of the global financial system.

Port congestion, container dearth, freight cost hit exports

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The recent delays facing exporters on account of port congestion, container shortage and rising freight cost are impacting exports.

"I have 4-5 containers (of tea) ready," said Dipak Shah, President, The South India Tea Exporters Association. "But, containers are available only after 10 days or so. Many of us have year-long contracts at agreed freight rates. But, the rates have shot up. Shipping time has doubled because of congestion at transhipment ports."

President of Tiruppur Exporters Association K.M. Subramanian said a 40-feet-high cube container from Thoothukudi to New York used to cost $4,260 in May. On July 1, it was $7,360, he added.

Rough seas: Some buyers have started demanding airlifting goods and the costs have seen a 20-25% surge, says Subramanian. AFP

Airlifting goods

With congestion at major transhipment ports, several vessels are skipping some of these ports. At least one mother vessel used to operate from Colombo to the U.S. every week. Now, it is twice a month. So, some buyers are asking for airlifting goods and the costs have seen a 20-25% surge.

S. Mahesh Kumar, a coir exporter, said the Indian government should talk to the shipping lines and ensure adequate space for Indian goods in the vessels as China is said to be using most of the space.

'FMCG likely to see revenue growth of 7-9% in FY25'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector is expected to see revenue grow 7-9% in FY25, riding on higher volume growth, and supported by an expected revival in rural demand and steady urban demand, Crisil Ratings said in a report. This follows 5-7% growth in FY24.

"Product realisations are expected to grow in low single digits with marginal rise in prices of key raw materials for the food and beverages segment. That said, key raw material prices for personal care and home care segments are seen to be stable," the rating agency said.

'Housing sales rose 11% in Jan.-June'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Indian real estate market remained buoyant in January-June this year, with housing sales hitting a 11-year high at 1.73 lakh units and office demand at a record 34.7 million sq.ft. across eight major cities, according to Knight Frank.

On an annual basis, housing sales rose 11% to 1,73,241 units while leasing of office space grew 33% to 34.7 million sq.ft. during January-June this year across eight major cities.

Knight Frank India CMD Shishir Baijal noted that premium housing formed 34% of all sales in the first half of 2024.

As sugar stocks rise, ISMA calls for the lifting of export curbs

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) estimates the current sugar season to end in September with a stock of 91 lakh tonnes.

Idle inventory

ISMA in a statement said the sugar marketing season (October to September) every year ends with about 55 lakh tonnes. But this year, it is likely to be higher by 36 lakh tonnes. This "can potentially lead to additional costs for millers on account of idle inventory," it said.

The opening stock in October last year was about 56 lakh tonnes and expected domestic consumption for the current season is about 285 lakh tonnes.

"ISMA has urged the government to reconsider permitting export of surplus sugar after due consideration of domestic demand and supply.

The government has raised Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for 2024-2025 sugar season by ₹25 per quintal to ₹340 per quintal. This will hike the cane cost and the cost of sugar production and the mills will have to pay for cane supplies within 14 days.

Ethanol blending

Deepak Ballani, Director General, ISMA, said, "Allowing exports would not only ensure a comfortable stock for domestic consumption and sustain the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) but also contribute to maintaining the financial liquidity of sugar mills, enabling timely payments to farmers."

'Partnering with top Indian institutes on decarbonisation R&D'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Indian Institute of Science, IIT Madras, National Chemicals Lab and TERI, among top partners: Shell

Under its academic partnership, Open Innovation, Shell, the London-based oil and gas major says it has partnered with top Indian educational institutions to push deep research in various areas including decarbonisation to support its global energy transition.

'Fostering innovation'

Ajay Mehta, VP and Chief Engineer R&D, Shell India told *The Hindu*, "These partnerships aim to foster innovation and accelerate decarbonisation efforts in the energy sector to support the global energy transition."

Shell has so far collaborated with more than 15 Indian institutes on initiatives like decarbonisation, technology development, knowledge exchange, and start-up incubation. Indian Institute of Science (IISc), IIT Madras, National Chemicals Lab, Pune, and TERI, New Delhi, are some of these institutions.

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MANILA

Philippines hopes to sign key defence agreement with Japan

AFP

The Philippines' military chief said on Thursday he hoped a key defence pact with Japan allowing for the deployment of troops on each other's territory will be signed next week. Japanese Defence Minister Minoru Kihara and Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa are set to meet their Philippine counterparts in Manila on Monday. AFP

MELBOURNE

Pro-Palestinian protesters breach security at Australia's Parliament

AFP

Pro-Palestinian protesters breached security at Australia's Parliament House to unfurl banners from the roof on Thursday as a senator quit the government over its direction on the Gaza war. Four protesters were arrested after draping words "war crimes" and "genocide" over the building's façade known as Great Verandah. AP

PARIS

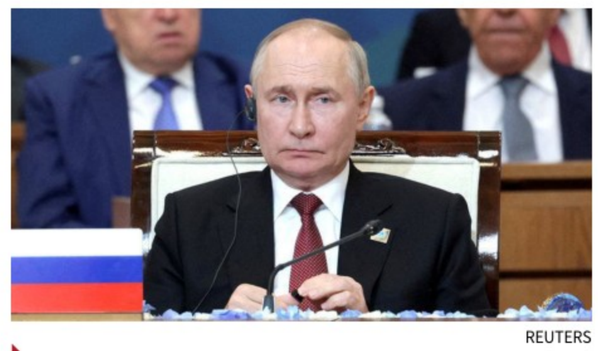
French far-right leader Le Pen says absolute majority possible

AP

The French far right National Rally (RN) is still capable of winning an absolute majority in Parliament, three-time presidential candidate Marine Le Pen said on Thursday. If the RN wins an absolute majority of 289 seats in the 577-member National Assembly, it will be able to form a government. AFP

MOSCOW

Taliban 'our allies' in fighting terror as they control Afghanistan: Putin



REUTERS

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that the Taliban, a banned group in Russia, are Moscow's "allies" in fighting terrorism because they are in control of Afghanistan. "In this sense the Taliban are our allies in the fight against terrorism, because any authorities are interested in stability in the state they govern," he said. AFP

Limit Labour's power, Sunak tells voters

Labour leader Starmer, tipped to be the next Prime Minister, says Britain's future is on the ballot, adding that 'change will only happen if you vote for it'; in a message to his voters, PM Rishi Sunak says the country could wake up to a Labour supermajority, ready to wield their unchecked power

Agence France-Presse
Associated Press
LONDON

Britain's Opposition Labour party is poised to win a landslide ending nearly a decade-and-a-half of Conservative rule, according to opinion polls. The first national ballot since Boris Johnson won the Tories a decisive victory in 2019 follows PM Rishi Sunak's surprise call to hold an election six months earlier than required.

His gamble looks set to backfire spectacularly, with polls throughout the six-week campaign pointing to a heavy defeat for his right-wing party. That would almost certainly put Labour leader Keir Starmer, 61, in Downing Street, as leader of the largest party in parliament.

But Starmer was taking nothing for granted as he urged voters not to stay at home. "Britain's future is on the ballot," he said. "But change will only happen if you vote for it."

Voting began at 7:00 am in more than 40,000 polling stations across the country, from church halls, community centres and schools to more unusual venues such as pubs and even a ship.

Deciding factor: Labour Party leader Keir Starmer and his wife Victoria outside a polling station in London on Thursday. REUTERS

Mr. Sunak was among the early birds, casting his ballot at his Richmond and Northallerton constituency in Yorkshire, northern England. Mr. Starmer voted around two hours later in his north London seat, shortly before Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey.

Results from the U.K.'s 650 constituencies trickle in overnight, with the winning party expected to hit 326 seats – the threshold for a parliamentary majority – as dawn breaks Friday.

In a message to voters on Wednesday, Mr. Sunak said, "if the polls are to be believed, the country could wake up tomorrow to a Labour supermajority ready to wield their unchecked power." He urged voters to back the Conservatives to limit Labour's power. "I appreciate people have frustrations with our party," Mr. Sunak conceded on Wednesday. "But tomorrow's vote... is a vote about the future."

If the predictions are accurate, Mr. Sunak will on Friday visit head of state King Charles III to tender his resignation. Mr. Starmer will meet the monarch shortly after to take up his invitation to head the next government.

The Labour leader will then travel to Downing Street -- the office and residence of British leaders -- where he would be expected to deliver a speech before making ministerial appointments.

Biden is not quitting race: White House

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Joe Biden

Joe Biden is "absolutely not" pulling out of the U.S. presidential race, his spokesperson said on Wednesday, as pressure mounted following his disastrous debate performance against Donald Trump.

Panic has gripped his Democratic Party in the wake of last week's TV debate, and internal rumblings about finding a replacement candidate before November's election have been amplified by polls showing Mr. Trump extending his lead.

The *New York Times* and *CNN* reported that Mr. Biden, 81, had acknowledged to a key ally that his re-election bid was on the line if he failed to quickly reassure the public that he was still up to the job. White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre rejected those reports outright, insisting Mr. Biden has no intention of withdrawing.

Taking control

An air tanker drops retardant behind a home while battling the Toll Fire near Calistoga, California. An extended heat wave blanketing Northern California has resulted in red flag fire warnings and power shutoffs. AP

Hezbollah fires over 200 rockets into Israel

Associated Press
BEIRUT

The Lebanese Hezbollah group said it launched over 200 rockets on Thursday at several military bases in Israel in retaliation for a strike that killed one of its senior commanders.

The attack by the Iran-backed militant group was one of the largest in the months-long conflict along the Lebanon-Israel border, with tensions escalating in recent weeks.

The Israeli military said "numerous projectiles and suspicious aerial targets" had entered its territory from Lebanon, many of which it said were intercepted. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

It said about 200 "projectiles" were launched toward the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and over 20 drones into Israeli territory, but that it had intercepted some of them.

Israel had killed Mohammad Naameh Nasser, who headed one of Hezbollah's three regional divisions

Israel after Hezbollah's attack struck various towns in southern Lebanon. The Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah's "military structures" in the southern border towns of Ramyeh and Houla.

Israel on Wednesday acknowledged that it had killed Mohammad Naameh Nasser, who headed one of Hezbollah's three regional divisions in southern Lebanon, a day earlier.

DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

CORRIGENDUM - 2 No.3678, dtd.04.07.2024

The detailed **Corrigendum-2** of Request for Proposal (RFP) issued vide file No.DES-WB-OSCRGPP-0005-2023/dt.23.05.2024 on Hiring of Project Management Consultancy for Strengthening of State Statistical System in Odisha under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Policy Programme are available in the official website of DE&S, **http://www.desorissa.nic.in/** and Planning and Convergence Department, **https://pc.odisha.gov.in/** . Besides, the last date of submission of the proposals has been extended up to **12.07.2024 by 5.00 PM**.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR

X-09 : OIPR-21002/11/0006/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.

No: Date:

e-Procurement Notice for PM-JANMAN, Batch-II, PMGSY works

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of road works under PM-JANMAN - 13 Nos**
2. Class of Contractor : **"B", "A" & Special Class** of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs.68.38 Lakhs to Rs.786.57 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 05/2024-25	12.07.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	01.08.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.	31.07.2024 up to 2.00 P.M.	02.08.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : **https://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in** for PM-JANMAN & PMGSY works.
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web sites.

Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.

O-81: OIPR-25182/11/0007/2425

'Genocidal violence looming in Myanmar'

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Thomas Andrews

Myanmar's Rakhine State is facing a terrifying situation similar to the run up to "genocidal violence" eight years ago against the persecuted Rohingya minority, a UN expert warned on Thursday.

Speaking at the United Nations Human Rights Council, Thomas Andrews, the special rapporteur on the situation in Myanmar, voiced deep alarm at recent events in the western region.

"The situation in Rakhine State, where the junta is rapidly losing territory to the Arakan Army, is terrifying," Mr. Andrews said.

"For Rohingya people – oppressed, scapegoated, exploited, and stuck between warring parties – the situation carries echoes of the lead-up to genocidal violence in 2016 and 2017."

Clashes have rocked Rakhine State since the Arakan Army (AA) attacked security forces in November.

That ended a ceasefire that had largely held since a military coup in 2021 after a short-lived experiment with democracy.

Mr. Andrews, an independent expert appointed by the rights council who does not speak on behalf of the UN, said the military had been conscripting "thousands of Rohingya youth and mobilising them against the Arakan Army".

Netflix show creator convicted by Saudi Arabia anti-terrorism court

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Abdulaziz Almuzaini

Saudi TV creator Abdulaziz Almuzaini, whose animated Netflix show has made waves for breaking social taboos, said he had been convicted by an anti-terrorism court, prompting condemnation from rights advocates.

The kingdom's Specialised Criminal Court, established in 2008 to try suspects accused of terrorism, "issued against me [a sentence of] 13 years, followed by a 13-year travel ban", Mr. Almuzaini said in a video posted online last week that was subsequently deleted.

In a second video posted this week, which is still available on X, Mr. Almuzaini filmed himself inside a car, saying: "I am banned from travelling" out of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi officials did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Thursday, and there was no word of Mr. Almuzaini – who was not available for comment – having been incarcerated.

His satirical show "Masameer County", billed as "a humorous view on a changing Saudi", debuted in 2021.

Episodes tackled topics such as disputes among tribes and Islamic militancy, and even featured oblique references to homosexuality, a potential capital crime in Saudi Arabia.

The *Wall Street Journal* on Thursday reported that court documents in the case referred to online posts by Mr. Almuzaini which "ridiculed Arab regimes... or voiced support for women's rights".

Mr. Almuzaini said in the since-deleted video that the court accused him of promoting homosexuality and militancy.

He also said that he was forced to close his company, Myrkott Animation Studio.

The video included a direct appeal to Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who became first in line to the throne in 2017 and has overseen sweeping social and economic reforms.

"I believe that we are in a country ruled by a rational family, and if one of its citizens is subjected to injustice, I have faith that my voice reaching His Highness the crown prince will correct some of what happened to me," Mr. Almuzaini said.

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ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ଓ ପାନୀୟ ଜଳ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡିଶା ସରକାର
Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society
creating competence and values in rural Odisha
Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha
ORMAS
SIRD & PR Campus, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751012, India
Tel : 0674-2565870/71
Email:ormashq@gmail.com
Website :www.ormas.org

No. 2848 / Date : 03/07/2024
File No.:ORMAS-SD-MISC-0007-2023

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

"Hiring of services of Technical Support Agency (TSA) for providing techno-managerial supports in project management of Skill Development Program of ORMAS, Odisha"

Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society (ORMAS) under the administrative control of Panchayati Raj & DW Department, Govt. of Odisha invites proposal from eligible bidders to carry out **"Hiring of services of Technical Support Agency (TSA) for providing techno-managerial supports in project management of Skill Development Program of ORMAS, Odisha"**. Bidders fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria of the RFP can access and download the complete RFP Document and other details from **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** . The bid calendar under the end to end process are:

Sl.No.	List of Key Events	Critical Dates
1	Date of Publish of RFP	05/07/2024
2	Last Date & time for Submission of Bid	26/07/2024 (03:00 P.M.)
3	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	26/07/2024 (04:00 P.M.)
4	Date of Technical Presentation	Tentatively in the 1st week of Aug, 2024, the exact date will be intimated later on
5	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	Tentatively in the 3rd week of Aug, 2024, the exact date will be intimated later on

The bidder must submit through e-tender process latest by **26th July 2024 by 03:00 pm** clearly mentioning **"REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - 'Hiring of services of Technical Support Agency (TSA) for providing techno-managerial supports in project management of Skill Development Program of ORMAS, Odisha"**. The proposals received after the last date and time will be rejected without assigning any reason. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any proposal without assigning any reason thereof, Similarly the authority also reserves its right to withdraw / cancel this request for proposal at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Director-cum-Chief Executive Officer, ORMAS

CAD-457: OIPR-19004/11/0001/2425

REWARDING EXCELLENCE

Victorious team presented with cheque for ₹125 crore

REUTERS

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) office-bearers presented the T20 World Cup-winning Indian team with a cheque of ₹125 crore during the felicitation function at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday. The team was showered with confetti as it received the award amidst loud cheers from the crowd.

CATALYST

Bumrah says the victory has given the motivation to do it again

REUTERS

Jasprit Bumrah felt it was great to return to Wankhede. "This ground is really special in my life. As an under-19 kid, I came here to play cricket and what I saw today, I will never forget that. Our aim is to take Indian cricket forward. This win gives us the motivation to go ahead and do it again."

FITTING FAREWELL

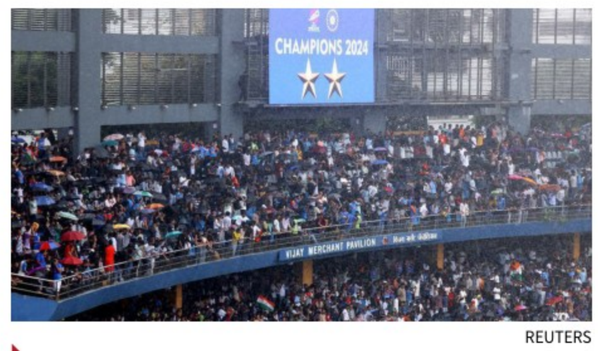
Fantastic note to sign off, says departing coach Dravid

BCCI

Head coach Rahul Dravid stated winning the T20 World Cup was a fitting note to end his stint. "This is a fantastic note to sign off on. I am going to miss all this love. What we have been seeing today and what I have heard since the win shows how India makes cricket brilliant," said Dravid.

COMING IN HANDY

Umbrellas save the day amidst Mumbai rains



REUTERS

The sea of blue turned into a sea of black, at least twice, at the Wankhede Stadium. It wasn't a result of any protest but was due to the string of umbrellas that opened after a sudden cloudburst. Unlike major games, the spectators were allowed to carry props and it helped their cause!

Passionate fans flock to cheer the champion outfit

A humongous crowd, braving wet weather and traffic snarls, lines up along Marine Drive to hail with gusto the gaily decorated bus ferrying Rohit and his men to the Wankhede Stadium

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Victory drive: The Indian team's cavalcade winds its way through a sea of fans enthusiastically capturing the moment with their mobile phones. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Being patient, be it for delayed or disrupted local train service or due to traffic snarls, is so ingrained in the life of a Mumbaikar that he or she doesn't mind when it's often misrepresented or glorified as the 'Spirit of Mumbai.'

On Thursday, a majority of those who were stuck in terrible traffic jam would not have minded it.

After all, it was for cricket, another passion of a Mumbaikar as Rohit Sharma's victorious batch of 2024 "brought the metropolis to a standstill" in a style similar to Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men famously did 17 years ago.

While 'Dhoni's Dashers' 25-km long bus parade in 2007 had attracted lakh of fans, Thursday saw an enormous crowd concentrated in the two-kilometre radius around the Wankhede Stadium.

Delayed

The squad's arrival from New Delhi, after meeting the Prime Minister, was delayed by almost two hours and by the time the team bus got out of the Mumbai airport, the evening traffic had peaked.

It led to a commotion and a corridor being created for the bus.

Early birds

At the other end of the Maximum City, the fans had thronged in and around the Wankhede Stadium more than six hours before the expected start of the victory parade.

While it was announced that the Wankhede gates would open at 4 p.m., huge queues outside the various gates meant the security forces had to advance the opening to around 3.30 p.m.

With little arrangements in place, it led to a crowding at every staircase entrance.

Though a grievous incident was averted, soon after the gates were locked, abandoned footwear were witnessed at various staircases.

But once they were inside, the spectators were kept entertained by a DJ.

Meanwhile, on the Marine Drive, the police struggled to manage a huge crowd, estimated to be over two lakh.

But once the victory parade – with a 1.7km distance to cover – finally started at 7.38 p.m., the wait through a heated afternoon and a wet evening was worth it as the fans went wild with cheers for India's second T20 World Cup trophy.

And when the cavalcade entered the Wankhede two hours hence, the 25,000-plus turnout at the 'Big W' that had sat patiently, with little to eat or drink, rejoiced along with the Men in Blue.

Worth the wait

On this day, a 17-year-wait for a T20 World Cup seemed nothing for ardent cricket fans in comparison to a six to eight-hour ordeal to celebrate with their cricketing stars!

Fans were more desperate for the trophy than us: Rohit

Good times: Rohit having fun with Suryakumar, Pant, Jaiswal, Samson, Dube, and others at the Wankhede Stadium. PTI

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Rohit Sharma, India's T20 World Cup-winning captain, thanked all the fans for supporting the team during its campaign.

"On behalf of my team and the BCCI, I would like to thank the fans! Ever since we have reached India, we have seen how much it means to them. For the last 11 years, they have wanted the trophy back in India," said Rohit while addressing a packed Wankhede Stadium.

"As much desperation we had to win the trophy, the fans had it a bit more. This team is special and I am lucky to have had the chance to captain this unit."

Virat Kohli compared the 2011 ODI World Cup win with the recent triumph. "When we won the World Cup in 2011, there were a lot of tears among the seniors and I couldn't understand. I was young and we had won the World Cup," said Kohli.

"But now, with Rohit beside me and after playing for so long, it is special. This is the first time I have seen Rohit show so much emotion on the field. When I was walking up the steps, I was crying, he was crying and we hugged. That is a special moment."

Rohit & Co. touch down to a rapturous welcome

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Cheering away: Fans gathered in huge numbers outside New Delhi airport to receive Team India. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team returned to the country here on Thursday morning, aboard a specially-arranged charter flight, with scores of fans lining up outside the airport to welcome the players despite a steady drizzle and heavy security deployment that kept them at a distance from their heroes.

Hundreds of supporters, holding placards congratulating their favourites and waving the National flag, braved the weather to welcome the victorious side, which defeated South Africa last Saturday.

Heavy security was deployed to keep the crowd in check at the Indira Gandhi International airport but that did little to dampen the spirits as fans cheered enthusiastically holding up posters of star batter Virat Kohli, skipper Rohit Sharma and outgoing head coach Rahul Dravid.

The Indian squad, its support staff, the players' families and some BCCI officials were aboard the flight along with members of the travelling media contingent.

Tired but excited, the players acknowledged the waiting fans by waving at them and flashing warm smiles.

Suryakumar Yadav, who took the match-winning catch of David Miller in the final, was the most enthusiastic in responding to the cheering.

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant saluted the gathered crowd, while pacer Mohammed Siraj blew flying kisses in their direction.

Rohit and the player-of-the-final Virat Kohli, both of whom retired from T20Is at the end of India's campaign, were among the last to come out of the VIP exit.

Rohit, who held the coveted trophy in his hands, raised it for the fans to catch a glimpse before boarding the bus. Kohli gave a thumbs up to acknowledge the support before taking his place in the bus.

Buses stationed outside the T3 Terminal then ferried the players to their hotel from where they went to meet the Prime Minister's at his residence.

PM Modi has 'memorable conversation' with the triumphant Indian squad members

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

One for the album: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Indian team at a breakfast meeting in his official residence on Thursday. AFP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team for breakfast here on Thursday during which, he said, there were "memorable" conversations on the side's experiences through the marquee event co-hosted by USA and the West Indies.

The Rohit Sharma-led squad, that won the title after defeating South Africa by seven runs in the final last week, arrived in Delhi early morning after being stranded in Bridgetown, Barbados for five days due to a category 4 hurricane.

"An excellent meeting with our Champions! Hosted the World Cup winning team at 7, LKM and had a memorable conversation on their experiences through the tournament," Modi posted on 'X' along with pictures of him with the team.

The PM was flanked by Rohit and outgoing head coach Rahul Dravid in the group picture.

Several players later shared photos with the PM. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah posted an image of him and his wife, Sanjana Ganesan, basking in the moment with Modi holding their 10-month old son, Angad.

Kuldeep Yadav also shared images of his interaction and looked emotional while being hugged by Modi.

Pacer Arshdeep Singh and his parents were all smiles posing with Modi.

"What a great honour, meeting our honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. Thank you sir for inviting us to the Prime Minister's residence," star batter Virat Kohli, who was adjudged player of the final for his 59-ball 76, posted on Instagram.

The team had earlier landed in Delhi amid much fanfare before heading to the Prime Minister's residence for breakfast, where they spent close to two hours.

The Prime Minister's Office shared a little over a minute-long video in which the players were seen engaging in a chat, sitting in a circle around Modi.

Special jersey

For the interaction, players wore customised jerseys with the world 'CHAMPIONS' inscribed in bold letters on the front.

It also featured two stars, denoting the two T20 World Cup titles, above the Team India crest on the top left corner. All of them were seen flashing smiles as they chatted with the PM.

BCCI president Roger Binny and secretary Jay Shah also presented the Prime Minister with a customised Team India jersey with 'NAMO' and 'I' inscribed on it.

India takes on a wonky South Africa in T20 leg

Women in Blue have won 11, Proteas four in the 17 games in the shortest format the two have played in the last 12 months; series crucial for both sides keeping the upcoming T20 WC in mind

SA IN INDIA

Lavanya. L
CHENNAI

Having a good laugh: The Indians enjoying themselves during the practice session on Thursday. R. RAGU

The M.A Chidambaram Stadium here is all set to host its first women's limited-overs bilateral game in 17 years when India and South Africa spar in the last leg of the multi-format series starting Friday.

South Africa, runner-up in the previous edition held at home, comes into the series with a wonky T20I record. Both teams have played 17 T20Is in the last 12 months. While India has won 11, the Proteas have won just four.

All eyes will be on Marizanne Kapp, who is yet to bowl in this series against India due to a back issue. The ace all-rounder has been stingy with rolling her arm over in the nets as well. Ayabonga Khaka's return after missing the one-off Test will offer the visitors relief, particularly in the PowerPlay.

Chloe Tryon's return from a back injury also boosts the Proteas. An explosive middle order bat and a handy left-arm spinner, Tryon will hope to make up for lost time in what is South Africa's final international assignment before the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh in October.

India comes into this series after a 5-0 thrashing of Bangladesh in its backyard, but keep in mind that Harmanpreet and Co. were up against an anaemic batting line-up.

With SA skipper Laura Wolvaardt and Kapp in red hot form, India will have its task cut out over three fixtures here.

Also crucial is how India's in-form batters led by Smriti Mandhana translate their longer format fluency to the tune of T20Is. With the Asia Cup campaign in Sri Lanka coming right after, this will be perfect conditions for coach Amol Muzumdar to experiment with reason.

While Chennai has traditionally been a spin haven, the edition of the IPL gone by and the recently concluded Test surprisingly had little for the tweakers.

Given that the venue has been strategically chosen keeping India's World Cup preparation in mind, curators might look to veer away from the flat track the venue saw for the Test.

The teams (from):
India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.) Smriti Mandhana (VC), Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Dayalan Hemalatha, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Sajeevan Sajana, Deepti Sharma, Asha Sobhana, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh, Shabnam Shakil, Pooja Vastrakar and Radha Yadav.
South Africa: Laura Wolvaardt (C), Tazmin Brits, Mieke de Ridder (wk), Sinalo Jafta (wk), Anneke Bosch, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Marizanne Kapp, Sune Luus, Chloe Tryon, Ayabonga Khaka, Masabata Klaas, Eliz-Mari Marx, Nonkululeko Mlaba and Tumi Sekhukhune.'
Match starts at 7 p.m.

We are setting high standards in fielding, says Jemimah

Lavanya. L
CHENNAI

Key players: Tryon, returning from injury, and Khaka will take centrestage if Kapp opts not to bowl. R. RAGU

Indian middle-order mainstay Jemimah Rodrigues identified fielding as an area of constant improvement for the Indian team ahead of its three-match T20I series against South Africa starting here on Friday.

"As the Indian women's cricket team, we are setting our standards high and we will continue to do whatever it takes to maintain that standard. If there is one thing for a very long time that we were missing somewhere towards the end, where we would come close and miss out, we know it's fielding."

Jemimah revealed that while specialist batting and bowling camps have been held for the outfit, fielding and fitness, coach Amol Muzumdar's two non-negotiables for the outfit, were never compromised on.

The series will also see local girl Dayalan Hemalatha potentially set the stage on fire.

"I'm very happy for her because we know what she's been through. She's not had the best of times, even back home. Coming into the WPL and then getting that one opportunity because Yastika Bhatia was injured and then making the best of it shows what her mindset is."

Jemimah is excited to continue playing before a Chennai crowd that kept India's spirits high during the draining red-ball fixture.

"I think the crowd in Chennai is going to be amazing. I just heard that it's been 17 years since a women's (white ball bilateral) match has happened here. We can't wait for the T20Is."

Need to score more

As South Africa gets ready for its 'last T20 dress rehearsal' ahead of the T20 World Cup later this year with the three T20Is against India, skipper Laura Wolvaardt is wary of getting ahead of herself, as a batter and as a team.

The two teams head into the last leg of the multi-format tour on the back of a hard-fought Test that India eventually won by 10 wickets. "It's difficult going both ways. It's difficult to adapt to the Test and then to unadapt from the Test. My net today wasn't the best ever," Wolvaardt admitted on the eve of the first T20I.

Wolvaardt says the T20Is offer her side a chance to experiment.

"It's a good time to see if we could perhaps use a bit more spin in the PowerPlay and in the death."

With Marizanne Kapp still doubtful with the ball, the pressure doubles on a slightly shaky batting order.

"The batting unit needs to find those extra 10-20 runs. Throughout that Australia series, we were pushing 150,160.

"But with how the game is nowadays and more flat wickets, teams are scoring 180-200, we need to go in that direction, be brave and play positive cricket."

SNAPSHOTS

Groenewegen wins sixth stage, Pogacar still in lead

DIJON: Dutch sprinter Dylan Groenewegen won stage six of the Tour de France on Thursday after an eye-catching run though Burgundy ended in a mass dash for the finish line in Dijon. Tadej Pogacar retained the yellow jersey by 45sec from Belgian Remco Evenepoel while defending champion Jonas Vingegaard is third.

Gukesh holds leader Caruana

BUCHAREST: World Championship challenger D. Gukesh played out a draw with tournament leader and top seed Fabiano Caruana of United States in the seventh round of the Superbet classic chess tournament. On another 'all-draws' day, R. Praggnanandhaa signed peace with Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia leaving the lead positions intact like the previous round. Caruana on 4.5 points remains in front with two victories and five draws and is followed by Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa and Alireza Firouzja of France, who are all half a point behind the American.

The results (round 7): Nepomniachtchi (FIDE) 3.5 drew with Praggnaanandhaa 4; Bogdan-Daniel (Rom) 2.5 drew with Firouzja (Fra) 4; Giri (Ned) 3 drew with Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 3.5; Gukesh 4 drew with Caruana (USA) 4.5; Wesley So (USA) 3 drew with Abdusattorov (Uzb) 3.

No surprises in AFI's 28-member squad for Paris

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Focused: Neeraj would hope to repeat the Tokyo Olympics feat despite the severe competition he is likely to face. K.R. DEEPAK

India will field a 28-member athletics squad at the Paris Olympics, headlined by Neeraj Chopra in javelin.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced the squad on Thursday with no surprises, including all those who have either achieved the qualifying standard or made the cut through world rankings.

The only name missing was long jumper Jeswin Aldrin, who was expected to be included in place of an injured M. Sreeshankar.

Sreeshankar's withdrawal is expected to see Jeswin climb to 32nd and make the Olympics list, but the AFI clarified that Jeswin, currently ranked 33rd, will have to wait till the final rankings list is updated on Sunday.

Two triple-jump entries

Apart from javelin, India will have two entries in triple jump as well.

Quartermiler Kiran Pahal, who qualified at the recent Inter-State championships and was surprisingly fielded by the AFI in a last-ditch attempt to qualify in the mixed relay as well, has not been named for the women's relay team.

The squad:
Men: Avinash Sable (3000m steeplechase), Neeraj Chopra, Kishore Jena (javelin), Tajinderpal Singh Toor (shot put), Praveen Chithravel, Abulla Aboobacker (triple jump), Sarvesh Kushare (high jump), Akshdeep Singh, Vikash Singh, Paramjeet Singh Bisht (20km race walk), Muhammed Anas, Muhammed Ajmal, Amoj Jacob, Santhosh Tamilarasan, Rajesh Ramesh, Mijo Chacko Kurian (4x400m relay), Suraj Panwar (race walk mixed marathon).
Women: Kiran Pahal (400m), Parul Chaudhary (3000m steeplechase and 5000m). Jyothi Yarraji (100m hurdles), Annu Rani (javelin throw), Abha Khatua (shot put), Jyothika Sri Dandi, Subha Venkatesan, Vithya Ramraj, M.R. Poovamma, Prachi (4x400m relay), Priyanka Goswami (20km race walk/ race walk mixed marathon).

Germany out to snap 36-year winless run against Spain

Reuters
BERLIN

Germany takes on fellow title contender Spain in their mouth-watering Euro 2024 quarterfinal clash on Friday, hoping to end a winless run at tournaments against them that stretches back to 1988.

The Germans are enjoying their best international tournament in eight years but the match against the Spaniards is also seen as a premature final.

Spain cruised through its group with wingers Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams quickly establishing a superb partnership that has terrorised opposing defences.

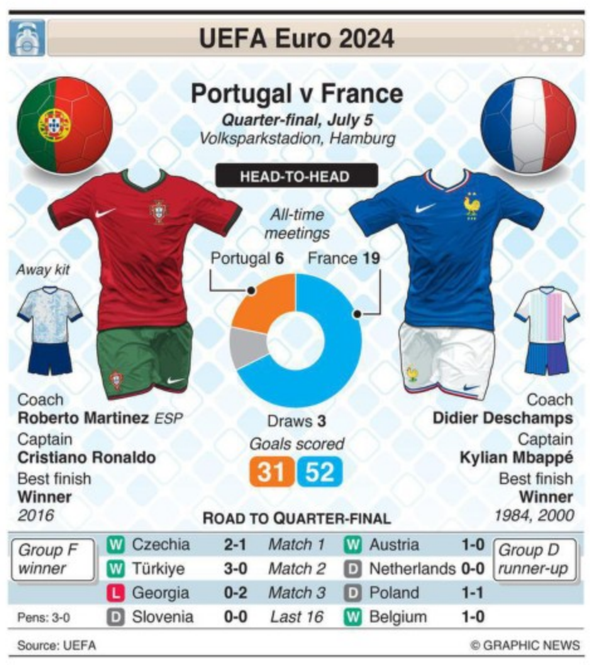
With Fabian Ruiz directing their game, often called "possession with a purpose", there is a constant drive forward instead of merely holding onto the ball. The Germans meanwhile had to dig deep to top their group.

It is how Germany's defensive organisation copes with Spain's lethal attacking football that is likely to decide the outcome.

Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann has a tough decision to make for the left back position, with attack-minded David Raum and Maximilian Mittelstaedt having occupied it in recent games.

He could potentially opt for a more defensive option in Benjamin Henrichs.

Meanwhile, in Hamburg, the forward lines of France and Portugal need to fire up again, where every little advantage will likely be crucial in a tight contest.



France has not scored in open play in its last five internationals while Portugal has failed to find the net in its past two outings at Euro 2024.

Ronaldo vs Mbappe

There is no doubting the quality on both sides, with Kylian Mbappe captaining the French and Cristiano Ronaldo bringing record-breaking achievement to Portugal.

But Mbappe is battling with a broken nose in Germany and at the age of 39 Ronaldo's powers are on the wane.

France coach Didier Deschamps tried to fix the malaise with a three-man strike force against Belgium but the pickings were slim. Defence, ironically given the attacking talent at their disposal, has been France's strong point in the last weeks.

The margins will likely be fine again and the outcome possibly determined by a moment of genius.

Djokovic 'made to work' for win over wild-card Fearnley; Bhambri & Olivetti advance

WIMBLEDON

Associated Press
LONDON

Finding his rhythm: Djokovic said he 'was not really comfortable in my own skin, particularly in the third and fourth'. AP

Novak Djokovic says he wouldn't have been surprised if his second-round match against young Jacob Fearnley at Wimbledon went to a fifth set, but he's "very glad it didn't."

The seven-time champion at the All England Club beat his 22-year-old Scottish opponent 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5 on Centre Court on Thursday in another test of his fitness following recent knee surgery.

Fearnley, a wild-card entry who recently finished playing college tennis at TCU, had a strong cheering section that erupted when he took the third set.

"He served very well, it was very difficult to break his serve.

"He made me work, definitely," Djokovic said.

Iga Swiatek progressed smoothly into the third round at the expense of Croatia's Petra Martic, racking up a 21st straight win.

A single break in the first set put the Polish top seed in charge and she repeated the feat in the second set to seal a 6-4, 6-3 victory.

No. 5 Jessica Pegula become the highest-seeded women's player to lose. The American was defeated by Wang Xinyu 6-4, 6-7 (7), 6-1. For Wang, it was her first victory over a top-10 player.

Britain's wild-card entry Yuriko Lily Miyazaki won only 19 points en route to a 6-0, 6-0 loss to Daria Kasatkina. She will next face Paula Badosa, who advanced Thursday by beating Brenda Fruhvirtova 6-4, 6-2.

No. 12 Madison Keys marked U.S. Independence Day with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Wang Yafan to reach the third round.

India's Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti prevailed against Kazkahstan's Alexander Bublik and Alexander Shevchenko 6-4, 6-4 to move to the men's doubles second round but Olympic-bound N. Sriram Balaji made an exit from the Wimbledon Championships along with Luke Johnson, here on Thursday.

TOP RESULTS

Men: Second round: 24-Tabilo (Chi) bt Cobolli (Ita) 7-6(4), 7-6(4), 4-6, 4-6, 6-4; 15-Rune (Den) bt Wild (Bra) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 13-Fritz (USA) bt Rinderknech (Fra) 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; Halys (Fra) bt 21-Khachanov (Rus) 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; Norrie (GBr) bt 28-Draper (GBr) 7-6(3), 6-4, 7-6(6). 9-de Minaur (Aus) bt Munar (Esp) 6-2, 6-2, 7-5; Fils (Fra) bt 7-Hurkacz (Pol) 7-6(2), 6-4, 2-6, 6-6, ret.; 14-Shelton (USA) bt Harris (RSA) 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-7(5), 6-3, 7-6(7); 10-Dimitrov (Bul) bt Juncheng (Chn) 5-7, 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-2, 6-4; Shapovalov (Can) bt Altmaier (Ger) 7-6(3), 6-3, 1-6, 6-7(3), 6-4; 2-Djokovic (Srb) bt Fearnley (GBr) 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 7-5; Popyrin (Aus) bt 30-Etcheverry (Arg) 3-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; 25-Musetti (Ita) bt Darderi (Ita) 6-4, 4-6, 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-4. Kecmanovic (Srb) bt 27-Griekspoor (NEd) 4-6, 7-6(7), 1-6, 6-2, 6-3; 12-Paul (USA) bt Virtanen (Fin) 4-6, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4; Struff (Ger) bt 32-Zhang (Chn) 5-7, 6-3, 7-6(1), 7-6(8); 1-Sinner (Ita) bt Berrettini (Ita) 7-6(3), 7-6(4), 2-6, 7-6(4).

Doubles: First Round: Bhambri (Ind) & Olivetti (Fra) bt Bublik (Kaz) & Shevchenko (Rus) 6-4, 6-4; 4-Pavic (Cro) & Arevalo-Gonzalez (Esa) bt Sriram Balaji (Ind) & Johnson (GBr) 6-4, 7-5.

Women: Second round: 21-Svitolina (Ukr) bt Niemeier (Ger) 6-3, 6-4; Pera (USA) bt 23-Garcia (Fra) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt Martic (Cro) 6-4, 6-3; 4-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Siegemund (Ger) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

14-Kasatkina (Rus) bt Miyazaki (GBr) 6-0, 6-0; 12-Keys (USA) bt Wang Yafan (Chn) 6-2, 6-2; Putintseva (Kaz) bt 27-Siniakova (Cze) 6-0, 4-6, 6-2; Maneiro (Esp) bt Bucsa (Esp) 7-6(1), 6-3; 31-Krejcikova (Cze) bt Volynets (USA) 7-6(6), 7-6(5); 20-Haddad Maia (Bra) bt Osorio (Col) 3-0, ret.; 18-Kostyuk (Ukr) bt Saville (Aus) 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-4; Wang Xinyu (Chn) bt 5-Pegula (USA) 6-4, 6-7(7), 6-1; 17-Kalinskaya (Rus) bt Bouzkova (Cze) 6-4, 6-1; Dart (GBr) bt 32-Boulter (GBr) 4-6, 6-1, 7-6(8); 13-Ostapenko (Lat) bt Snigur (Ukr) 6-3, 6-0; 10-Jabeur (Tun) bt Montgomery (USA) 6-1, 7-5; 11-Collins (USA) bt Galfi (Hun) 6-3, 6-4. 9-Sakkari (Gre) bt Rus (Ned) 7-5, 6-3; Zhu (Chn) bt 25-Pavlyuchenkova (Rus) 6-4, 6-3; 7-Paolini (Ita) bt Minnen (Bel) 7-6(5), 6-2; 28-Yastremska (Ukr) bt Gracheva (Rus) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(5).

Fallen seeds

Men: 7-Hurkacz, 30-Etcheverry, 27-Griekspoor, 32-Zhang; 28-Draper, 21-Khachanov
Women: 27-Siniakova, 5-Pegula, 32-Boulter, 25-Pavlyuchenkova; 23-Garcia

झारखण्ड सरकार
सत्यमेव जयते
GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

समस्त झारखण्ड एवं समस्त देशवासियों को

हूल जोहार

सत्यमेव जयते!

प्रिय झारखण्डवासियों,

आपके अटूट समर्थन और विश्वास के लिए हम आभारी हैं।
आपके भरोसे पर खरा उतरने का निरंतर प्रयास पूर्व की भांति जारी रहेगा। हम पुन: एक नए युग की शुरुआत कर रहे हैं ,
एक ऐसा युग जहाँ विकास और समावेशिता साथ साथ चलेंगे।

श्री हेमंत सोरेन
मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार

PR NO - 328711 IPRD(24-25)D

INBRIEF

Argentina sets sights on semis as Copa knockouts begin

Argentina will look to book its place in the Copa America last four when it opens the knockout stage against Ecuador on Thursday. There remains a doubt over the fitness of Lionel Messi however, who sat out the win in Miami as he nursed a sore right hamstring. Later surprise quarterfinalists Canada takes on Venezuela.

Rajawat stuns Gemke, enters second round

Priyanshu Rajawat stunned higher-ranked Rasmus Gemke of Denmark 17-21, 21-16, 21-14 to make the men's singles second round of Canada Open badminton at Calgary on Wednesday.

Other results: Men: Koki Watanabe (Jap) bt Ayush Shetty 21-14, 21-11; Alex Lanier (Fra) bt S. Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian 21-16, 21-17; **Women:** Tanya Hemanth bt Jackie Dent (Can) 21-13, 20-22, 21-14; Anupama Upadhyay bt Rachael Darragh (Ire) 21-11, 21-11.

Rajesh scores hat-trick as Yelahanka posts win

S. Rajesh scored a hat-trick as Yelahanka defeated Mahalakshmi Layout 6-1 in the Chief Minister's Cup football in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The results: Yelahanka 6 (S. Rajesh 5, 15, 50, Mithun 16, M. Regin 45, Manoj Kumar 65) bt Mahalakshmi Layout 1 (Kunwar Paris Singh 7); K.R. Puram 1 (Sanjay Kumar 63) bt Shivaji Nagar 0.

LIVE TELECAST

Wimbledon: SS Select 1, 2 & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. onwards
India Women vs South Africa Women: 1st T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 7 p.m.
TNPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.
Football: Euro 2024, Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Badminton: Canada Open, Sports 18-1 & JioCinema, 10.30 p.m.

Bopanna-Balaji to play Hamburg, Umag to prepare for Paris

The two have been sanctioned suitable support, along with coach Balachandran and physio Rebecca Van Orshagen, for the two ATP events

Interesting match: Bopanna and Balaji will use the Tour events to get in sync ahead of Paris. AP

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Rohan Bopanna and Sriram Balaji are scheduled to play together in the ATP Tour events in Hamburg and Umag on clay in the run-up to the Paris Olympics at Roland Garros.

The two have also been sanctioned suitable support along with their coach M. Balachandran and physio Rebecca Van Orshagen for the two ATP events, by the Mission Olympic Cell of the Union Sports Ministry.

Hamburg, Germany, will be a ATP 500 event to be played from July 15, after Wimbledon. The Umag event in Croatia will be a ATP 250 event, scheduled from July 21.

The Olympics Games tennis event is scheduled from July 27 to August 4, with a singles draw of 64 and the doubles draw of 32. With no woman player qualifying in tennis, India will not have a mixed team entry in tennis.

Sania Mirza had kept the Indian presence felt in the four Olympics in Beijing, London, Rio and Tokyo. She had partnered Sunita Rao, Rushmi Chakravarthi, Prarthana Thombare and Ankita Raina in that order in those four Olympics, apart from playing mixed doubles with Leander Paes in London and Bopanna in Rio.

Bopanna is ranked No. 4 in the world, while Balaji is ranked No. 64. In the normal run, they may not get to play together.

Balaji capitalised on his French Open doubles entry recently to play the third round against Bopanna and Aussie Matthew Ebden.

With his big serve and a solid backhand, the 34-year-old Balaji did compete hard on clay in partnership with Miguel-Angel Reyes-Varela of Mexico, before losing 8-10 in the third set tie-break.

Balaji has won 56 doubles titles in the professional circuit, and more than a dozen Challenger titles, and is yet to win a title in the Tour events.

Abhay-Velavan post a win

SQUASH

Sports Bureau

The top-seeded Indian pair of Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar defeated the Philippines duo of Reymark Begornia and David William Pelino 11-4, 11-6 in a Pool A men's doubles match of the Asian doubles squash championships in Johor, Malaysia, on Thursday.

KARNATAKA ROUND UP

Titles for Rohith and Sahana
Rohith Shankar and Sahana H. Murthy emerged the boys' and girls' under-19 singles champions respectively at the State-ranking table tennis tournament in Mangaluru. While Rohith defeated Abhinav K. Murthy 11-8, 8-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-7, Sahana beat Trupti Purohit 11-9, 11-4, 11-1, 5-11, 11-13, 11-4.

Easy for Ishan and Diya
Top seeds in the U-17 category, Ishan Naik and Diya Bheemaiah, made easy progress into the quarterfinals of the Yonex Sunrise U-15 & U-17 State-ranking tournament being held in Shivamogga, on Thursday. While Ishan defeated Peeyush Tripathy 21-12, 21-13, Diya overcame Aashi Das 21-13, 21-11.

Hockey player Suresh passes away
Former State hockey player B.K. Suresh passed away Thursday morning in Bengaluru.

Champs: Rohith and Sahana, the U-19 singles winners in the State-ranking table tennis.

He represented Karnataka in Nationals, zonals and other all-India events in the 1970s and 80s. Suresh was employed with HAL and played for its team for two decades. The KSHA condoled his death.

Football trials
The Students Union Football Club will conduct trials on July 6 and 13 at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education in Yelahanka (Bengaluru) to select its squad for the 2024-25 BDFA Super Division season.
Call Febin Francis on 63608 09069 for more details.

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